

## THINKING OF REPLACING YOUR WINDOWS?

Thinking of Replacing Your Windows?

By replacing your old windows this year you will receive a \$1500 energy tax credit on your personal federal tax return.

Milgard® windows come with a lifetime warranty including glass breakage and service which is direct from the factory in Tualatin, Oregon.

Buy now and Milgard® will send you a \$20 per window (on Tuscan style windows) rebate after installation.

Call Garland Horner at anytime for an in home proposal.



*Clearly the best.™*

### INSULATED WINDOW CORP.

8124 N. Denver Ave. 503.283.9481 CCB #19095

## NORTHWEST NEWS

# By The Youth, For The Youth

Oregon Queer Youth Summit explores and empowers self-expression

By AMANDA WALDROUPE

Portland's City Hall always bustles with activity. The two elevators constantly are in motion and the tap of shoe steps echo through the hallways. Staffers move from office to office. A city commissioner may be spotted on his or her way to an event.

It had never been louder or more boisterous than on Saturday, May 15.

Moving about the hallways and atriums were 150 queer youth between the ages of 12 and 23 gathered for the Oregon Queer Youth Summit, an event offering workshops related to sexual orientation, gender identity, political rights and activism. Youth attended from all parts of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

The event provided a forum of discussion and political empowerment for queer youth, as well as a means for networking and community building. "One hope is that queer youth ... can see that there are other people like them," said Ernesto Dominguez, 22, one of the summit's organizers.

As queer youth come out in larger numbers, and at an earlier age, events like the Oregon Queer Youth Summit help them not only understand and accept their identity and orientation, but create confidence and inspiration as they grow into the next generation of politically active queer adults.

"They need the social support earlier," said Kerst Nelson, health coordinator for the Sexual Minority and Gender Youth Resource Center (SMYRC), one of the organizations that planned the summit. "When I was in high school 10 years ago, people were rarely coming out."

"There's a lot more consciousness now, among youth, of homophobia and transphobia," noted Zena Britadesco, the Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition's (OS-

SCC) youth and advocacy coordinator. That, she said, fuels a desire to become politically active and involved with issues directly affecting queer youth's lives.

Amelia Wolf, 18, presented a workshop on the civil and legal rights queer youth have in Oregon and Southwest Washington. "I know a lot of people who don't know their rights," she said. Yet, knowing them is "one of the most important things to have to advocate for yourself."

**"[Queer youth] need the social support earlier. When I was in high school 10 years ago, people were rarely coming out."**

- KERST NELSON, HEALTH COORDINATOR FOR SMYRC

Youth representing the OSSCC and SMYRC organized the summit. Annual conferences for queer youth have been held in the state in the past, but this was the first year the conference took place as the "Oregon Queer Youth Summit."

The OSSCC, a nonprofit working to make Oregon's public schools safe for queer youth and that oversees the Gay-Straight Alliances in Oregon public schools, hosted the Gay-Straight Alliance Summit from 2005 to 2009. The Oregon Queer Youth Conference, a similar annual event, was held between 2003 and 2008 and hosted by the Catlin Gabel School.

Britadesco said the organizations decided this year "to focus our efforts" and "pool funding" to create one queer youth-focused event.

County Commissioner Judy Shiprack, Mayor Sam Adams and Debra Porta, the

## LAURELHURST DENTISTRY

GENERAL & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

**Offering the latest in advanced dental technology:**

- ✦ Low radiation digital x-rays
- ✦ Porcelain veneers and crowns
- ✦ Cerec single-appointment porcelain crowns
- ✦ Invisalign



*left to right*  
Corinne Anderson, DMD  
Sheila Bennett, DMD  
Adrienne Fischl, DMD

2520 EAST BURNSIDE, PORTLAND, OR 97214  
PH: (503) 233-3622 FX: (503) 233-5882  
WWW.LAURELHURSTDENTISTRY.COM

"I'm AVAILABLE when you are!"

*Careful and energetic handling of all your home financing needs*



### MORTGAGE Advocates

6700 SW 105th Ave., Suite 200 Beaverton, OR 97005  
Toll Free (877) 826-9900 Fax (503) 297-0824  
E-Mail: colleen@mtgadvocates.com www.mtgadvocates.com



Colleen Weed

LIC#ML1056

Office 503•297•9900

Cell 503•780•1561



## Serious Injury & Death Cases

**Wrongful Death • Medical Malpractice • Serious Accidents • Brain Injuries  
Trucking Accidents • Spinal Cord Injuries • Nursing Home Abuse • Therapist Malpractice**

**Over 21 Years Experience • Top "AV" Rating**

**Proudly serving our community since 1989**

**Free Consultation 503-295-1940 • 800-795-8945**

**www.goreslaw.com**

Hala J. Gores, Attorney

Holding Insurance Companies Accountable