

NW NEWS IN BRIEF by Ryan J. Prado and Erin Rook

**LGBTQ-inclusive Sex Ed Workshop Aims for Community Feedback**

As Oregon's revised sexuality education law now specifies that schools must "use culturally and gender-sensitive materials, language and strategies that recognize different sexual orientations and gender roles," questions will no doubt be posed as to exactly how to accommodate this course of study. Portland just wouldn't be Portland without those answers being addressed sooner than later.

The Oregon Department of Education, Working to Institutionalize Sexuality Education (WISE) and the Queer and Trans-Inclusive Sex Ed Work Group are offering a free, interactive workshop open to educators, administrators, school board members and community members from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 27 at the Portland State Office Building (800 NE Oregon St., room 1A).

The workshop's aim is to better determine how to be inclusive of all students, including LGBTQ youth, in respective schools' comprehensive sexuality education programs and how to address community input and concerns.

Those who are interested in signing up, and those seeking further information, can contact Molly Franks at the Multnomah County Health Department by phone at 503-988-3030 ext. 24550, or by e-mail at [molly.c.franks@co.multnomah.or.us](mailto:molly.c.franks@co.multnomah.or.us)

- Ryan J. Prado

**LGBTQ Couple's Café at Q Center Gets Everything Out in the Open**

Relationship specialist and LGBTQ counselor Mariah Ureel has been teaching communication skills for couples since 1994, and has heard one consistent refrain at the end of her classes: the participants wished there was a place they could continue to visit to be reminded of their paths toward stronger, healthier relationships. A casual setting seemed the right environment to facilitate this need. Enter the LGBTQ Couple's Café gathering at Q Center.

The first installment of this regular gathering will be held Monday, June 7 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Ureel realized the necessity for more open discussion through her years of experience working with couples in the class setting.

"There's always a little bit of a social aspect in the classes, and it seems like people enjoy meeting one another," said Ureel. "I thought this could maybe fill that need that people have, perhaps for those who aren't super struggling—or they could be, too, and this might be a non-threatening way to have your partner go to something, and it's not so heavy like a therapy or a class. It's more like, 'Hey, we're going to do something good for our relationship, and at the same time we might meet people.'"

The first gathering's discussion will focus on "Emotional Intelligence for Couples," a phrase that Ureel explained covers both awareness and behavior.

"When couples are able to change their perspective or their frame of reference, then that allows for new ways of seeing and new choices that can be made in their relationship," she said.

The format for the gathering will have some structured activities as icebreakers, designed so people can feel more comfortable branching out. Ureel will give a "lecturette," followed by table discussions in small groups to include fun exercises while participants sip complimentary coffee and tea, and munch on snacks. Couples are also encouraged to bring friends in couples if they so desire.

*There is a \$5 suggested donation for the Couple's Café, with proceeds going to both Ureel and Q Center. However, no one will be turned away for lack of funds. For more information, visit [pdxcntr.org](http://pdxcntr.org) or [mariahureel.com](http://mariahureel.com). Q Center is located at 4115 N. Mississippi Ave.*

MARIAH UREEL

-Ryan J. Prado

**"God Hates Fags" Group Targets Grant High School**

Westboro Baptist Church, the Topeka, Kans.-based group known for its Web site [GodHatesFags.com](http://GodHatesFags.com) and picketing everything from San Francisco's Twitter office to the funerals of straight soldiers, is coming to Portland June 3

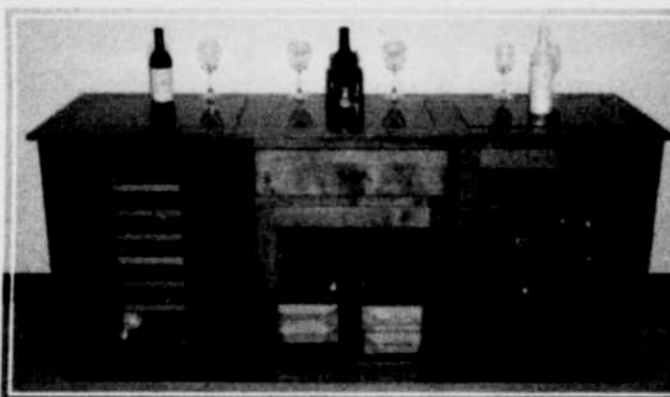
to stage a protest at Grant High School.

The independent Baptist church is scheduled to appear at the high school from 7:35 to 8:35 a.m. The reason for the picketing is unclear, but may be related to the fact that Grant High School has a Gay-Straight Alliance.

According to a WBC statement posted verbatim on the Facebook event for the counter-protest, they will be picketing the high school because "today's youth are violent brute beasts who are good for absolutely nothing. Their parents, teachers and preachers did that to justify their own sins. ... The educational system is an easy target because the lazy teachers are not interested in teaching you to read and write, but to socialize. Obama put out-of-the-closet fag Kevin Jennings in charge of Doomed america's schools so he can sodomize them with his GSA and GLSN clubs that promote fag filth."

Members of the queer community and its supporters are encouraged to attend a peaceful counter-protest, inspired by the response to the counter-picketing in San Francisco that called attention to the nonsensical nature of WBC's statements with signs reading, "Silly Hats Only," "I Have A Sign" and "God Hates Ponies," among others.

Additional locations for planned WBC protests (and counter-protests) include: May 28, 5:30-6 p.m. at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 3225 SW Barbur Blvd.; May 28, 7-8 p.m. at Havurah Shalom, 825 NW 18th Ave.; May 29, 8:30-9 a.m. at Congregation Neveh Shalom, 2900 Peaceful Lane; May 29, 9:10-9:40 a.m. at



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