

# NW NEWS

IN BRIEF BY RYAN J. PRADO

proved on December 15 following an extensive peer review process involving 58 volunteers on 16 different panels.

The intensive recommendation process for the disbursement of grants makes the awarding of funds to artists like Kaj-Anne Pepper all the more rewarding.

Pepper's grant was given to help fund the project *Genderfantasy*—a choreographed movement installation exploring queer identity, gender fluidity and sound collage. Pepper is working with a multi-instrumentalist and composer to develop an original sound score, and is putting together a team of dancers, musicians, singers and makeup artists to create an entertaining and compelling evening of performance art.

"RACC grants are important because they offer an incentive for artists to level up," explained Pepper. "For first-time grant recipients like myself, it's an opportunity to be recognized publicly."

Don Horn's Triangle Productions! received two grants from RACC—one for an upcoming production, and also a professional development grant that will help Horn travel to a theater conference.

"In the past 21 years I have not been able to go to one as I couldn't afford it," said Horn. "This allows me to do that! I am truly grateful to RACC and to the other organizations that have given to Triangle. It has been an amazing year."

In other grant news, Confluence—the Willamette Valley LGBTQ Chorus—was a recent recipient of an Arts Build Communities (ABC) grant awarded by the Oregon Arts Commission. The \$3,500 award will support the chorus' mission of outreach to members of the LGBTQ and allied communities in the Willamette Valley.

*For more information about RACC grants and a full list of recipients, visit [racc.org](http://racc.org). For more on Confluence Chorus, visit [confluencechorus.org](http://confluencechorus.org).*

## Lewis & Clark to Host Workshop Series on Safe Learning Environments for LGBTQ Community

Last fall, Lewis & Clark College held a day-long workshop with faculty, students and advocates from the Portland community to explore issues the school needed to address in curriculum and programming efforts to confront LGBTQ discrimination. As a direct result of this workshop, L&C is

set to hold the first of a three-part series of discussions and feedback in a free event dubbed "Continuing the Conversation: Providing Safe Learning Environments for LGBTQ Children, Teens, Adults and Allies."

The first of these events takes place Saturday, January 15 from 9 a.m. to noon on the L&C graduate campus, room SCCC101. Workshop 1 will tackle the question, "Should Teachers Say It's Okay to be Gay?" by examining norms in the educational system that prevent administration from creating safe spaces for LGBTQ students, staff and parents or family members.

Scott Fletcher—dean of the Graduate School of Education and Counseling at L&C—explained that due to the school's position as advocates for the preparation of educators and counselors who understand and can effectively address the discrimination that LGBTQ people



Kaj-Anne Pepper sponsored by RACC

experience in and outside of schools, L&C is firm in its commitment to making efforts like the workshop series a part of its professional programs.

"This requires an understanding of the complex ways that institutions erect barriers and obstacles to equality, and the subtle ways that discrimination operates to diminish opportunity," explained Fletcher. "We believe there is an enormous need to work more intentionally and collaboratively to

create a shared understanding of what it means to seek equity and fight intolerance in the classrooms, clinics and communities where our graduates will work."


The first workshop is designed to explore the norm of heterosexuality in schools and communities and how that impacts students, family and staff—as well as the issue of examining what it means to be safe as an LGBTQ-identified student, staff member or parent and to create a safe school environment.

"This is an opportunity for all of us to teach and learn from each other," said Fletcher.


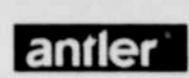


*For more information on Lewis & Clark's safe schools workshops or to RSVP, call 503-768-6040 or email [ccc@lclark.edu](mailto:ccc@lclark.edu).*

## BRO Presents Trans Rights Forum at Q Center

Q Center will host a special presentation by Basic Rights Oregon Monday, January 17 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. "Know Your Rights for Trans Oregonians" aims to provide legal



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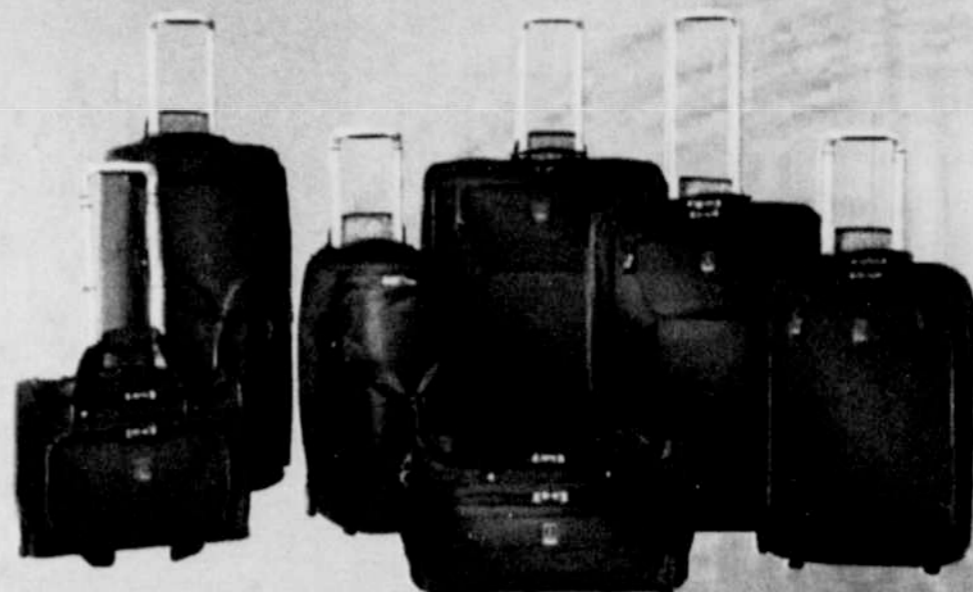
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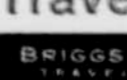




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