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DuQuenne. "I think it would be smart for them to do that to begin to build bridges. That's something my partner and I were discussing—the possibility and the opportunity of being able to not just march in this parade, but also be able to be in a public forum or be able to talk to people with all of our diversity and put it on the table and say, 'This is who we are; get to know me.'"

For more information about Southern Oregon Pride, visit sopride.org.

All-Ages Concert to Benefit Gay & Grey Program

On Sunday, April 17, Backspace Café (115 NW Fifth Ave.) plays host to an all-ages concert to benefit Friendly House's Gay & Grey program (formerly the Elder Resource Alliance, or ERA). Gay & Grey offers advocacy and outreach services for elderly sexual minorities, as well as diversity training for students and professionals in the fields of nursing, housing and long-term care. Gay & Grey's services are an ongoing endeavor, the culmination of which is the annual Gay & Grey PDX Expo, happening this year on May 21.

As a kickoff to the busiest time of the year for Gay & Grey, the concert—dubbed "Get Out!"—features some of the Northwest's most engaging performers from all arenas of entertainment. The iconic Darcelle XV will handle emcee duties, while a flurry of creative, cabaret-style entertainment hits the Backspace stage. Among them, Americana songstress Ashleigh Flynn brings her musical menagerie to the cause, as will the Portland Lesbian Choir. Lauded actor Megan Cole will delve into a theater piece based on a speech given by Audre Lorde during a 1977 "Lesbian and Literature Panel" of the Modern Language Association. Live music will be rounded out by Portland rockers Meet Your Monster and a DJ set by DJ El Rubio.

This year's Gay & Grey PDX Expo is already shaping up to be one of the biggest yet, with a major public awareness push given by Governor John Kitzhaber. May 21 will be proclaimed "Gay & Grey Day" by the governor in honor of the expo, which includes free health consultations, gay-friendly senior ser-

vice information, LGBTQ senior housing resources, breakout sessions, presentations, music and food.

All proceeds for "Get Out!" go directly to Gay & Grey to support ongoing advocacy and outreach to senior LGBTQ individuals. The concert is sponsored by Q Center and Manifest PDX.

The show runs from 3 to 6 p.m., with admission on a \$5-\$25 sliding scale donation.

For more information about Gay & Grey, visit friendlyhouseinc.org. For information about the upcoming Gay & Grey PDX Expo, visit gayandgreypdx.org.

BRO Exceeds Fundraising Goals, Eyes Busy Spring

Basic Rights Oregon executive director Jeana Frazzini reports that the group exceeded its fundraising goal of \$10,000 and instead reached \$15,000 in 10 days, ending on April 12. The fundraiser was run in conjunction with a major statewide educational advertising campaign on television to spread the message of marriage equality in Oregon. By reaching the goal of \$10,000, a matching donation was made to BRO from a generous donor, bringing the total raised to \$25,000.

The ads for Marriage Matters Oregon will continue to air through Monday, April 18.

"We've been getting a terrific response and have seen a real surge in community involvement and conversation about why marriage matters," says Frazzini. "I want to encourage everyone to keep talking—it really is making a difference."

To that effect, BRO leads the charge into the 18th Annual Oregonians Against Discrimination Business Leaders Luncheon Thursday, April 21 at the Oregon Convention Center (777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.) from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The summit brings Oregon business leaders together to learn how protecting LGBTQ families can lead to a stronger state. Governor John Kitzhaber serves as keynote speaker. (Read more about the event on p. 10.)

Later on April 21, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Pivot (209 SW Fourth Ave.) hosts a public discussion concerning marriage equality in 2012 as pursued by BRO.

In other branches of BRO's equality advocacy, the organization's Trans Justice Working Group is nearing the end of its health care story collecting. BRO has been collecting stories from transgender, genderqueer and gender non-conforming people who have experienced health care discrimination. Trans people routinely experience denial of coverage for transition-related care, denial of gender-specific care and are treated by a provider who is not trained to work with trans people.

"Access to health care is an urgent issue for trans communities," says BRO Trans Justice organizer Tash Shatz. "When trans people have the health care we need, our access to jobs, housing and other resources greatly increases. Our story collection campaign is laying the foundation with decision makers, business leaders and community members to support trans-inclusive health care."



Ashleigh Flynn performs at "Get Out!" April 17.