

# nwnews

raffle prizes, snacks and activities for kids. Patrons of the library can sign up to be a member and check out their favorite volumes for free. Those who cannot attend are encouraged to consider making a donation or becoming a "sustainer" to keep IOW going by visiting [inotherwords.org/support-us](http://inotherwords.org/support-us).

IOW also plays host to the lesbian cowgirl musical comedy *Bunkin' With You in the Afterlife* Wednesday, July 6 at 7:30 p.m. The BroadArts production "tackles religious intolerance, tramples sexism and celebrates love."

For more information on how to apply for the interim executive director position at *In Other Words*, contact [info@inotherwords.org](mailto:info@inotherwords.org). For more information on BroadArts Theatre and *Bunkin' With You in the Afterlife*, visit [broadarts.org](http://broadarts.org).

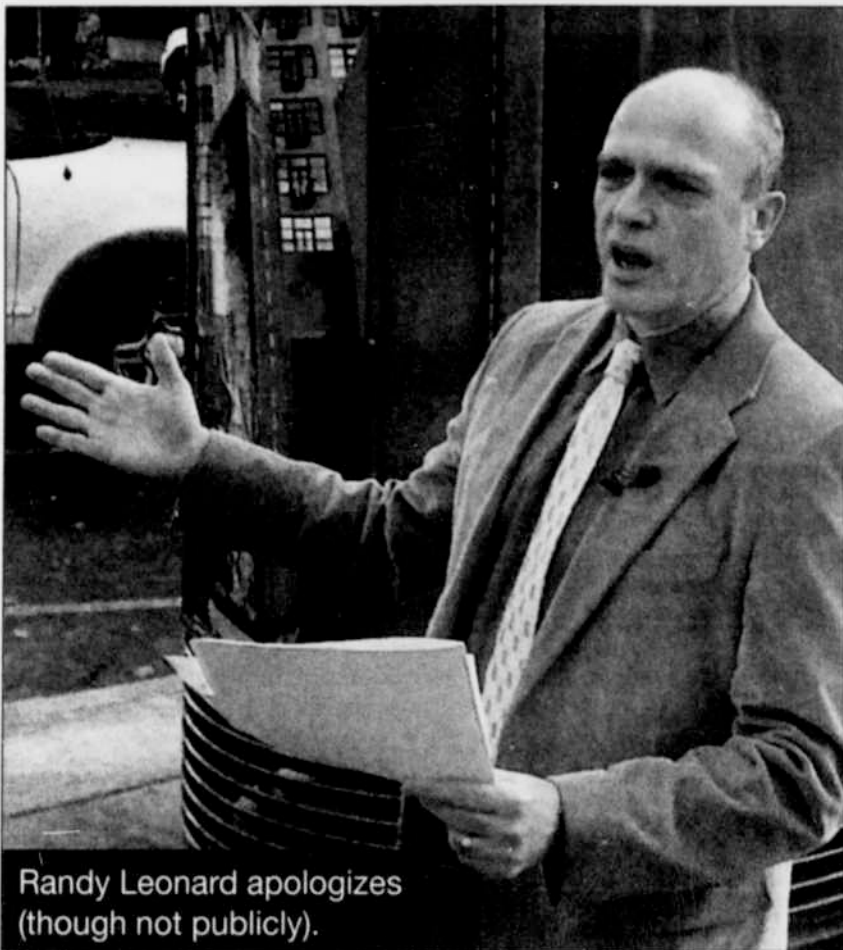
## HIV Activists Still Looking for Public Retraction by Leonard

The maelstrom caused by Portland City Commissioner Randy Leonard's recent comment that the city's open reservoirs had to be drained due to the possibility of "AIDS"-tainted urine has been quietly pushed aside following his announcement June 29 that he will not seek reelection in 2012. But for a sector of the community to whom HIV/AIDS stigma is of the utmost importance, Leonard isn't off the hook.

The Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS North America (GNP+/NA) immediately demanded a public retraction from Leonard for "suggesting a risk that does not exist" following his comments in an email to a concerned citizen. But in the days to come, Leonard made no public clarification or correction, choosing to defer regret for the blunder in email correspondence with both Michael Kaplan, executive director for Cascade AIDS Project, and Sean Strub, senior advisor for GNP+/NA.

*Just Out* contacted Leonard's office to inquire about any impending public correction on the issue, but was given instead a copy of an email Leonard drafted to Kaplan, in which he lamented his choice of words. Leonard, for his part, insisted that his comment was "not addressing whether or not infections would be diluted by a large quantity of water but, rather, rebutting those who were saying urine was sterile."

"I am so.r.y-I raised the example at all because I did not need to," read Leonard's email to Kaplan. "I am sorry I referred to the infection as AIDS rather than HIV. I know better and should have caught that. I am also sorry for any unintended harm I may have caused to anyone."



Randy Leonard apologizes (though not publicly).

Strub said that Leonard's piecemeal defenses on the issue aren't good enough.

"Mr. Leonard's comments were stigmatizing and contribute to a public perception of people with HIV as inherently dangerous," Strub wrote to Leonard's policy advisor, Sara Petrocine. "He owes his community, and people with HIV everywhere, a clarification."

Kaplan said that while he feels Leonard is aware of the gravity of his gaffe, he doesn't expect anything more than what he's already received from the outgoing commissioner.

"I think it was a stupid comment, and I wish he had not made it," said Kaplan. "Now that he has, I wish he would make a public retraction rather than a one-by-one response. But we've shared our opinion with the commissioner on this and feel there are more productive places and ways to extend our energy now."

## Community News in Brief

• **Queer Rising founder Alan Bounville arrived in Portland** the week of June 27 for a weeklong stay on his 6,000-mile walking campaign to raise awareness of gender equality. Bounville left Seattle on May 31 on his "Into the Light Walk" en route to Washington, D.C., which he says should take nine to 18 months.

Along the way, Bounville is performing a one-man show, as well as holding vigils at locations where anti-gay violence has occurred, and visiting queer youth centers. Bounville plans to hold a vigil at the Ambassador Lounge (4744 NE Sandy Blvd.) Friday, July 1. The location is where Jacqueline Julita Anderson and Barbara J. Gilpin were murdered in 1998. He also plans a vigil on the Hawthorne Bridge as a reminder of the recent gay bashing in the area. For updated information on Bounville's stops in Portland, as well as to donate, visit [intothelightwalk.com](http://intothelightwalk.com).

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