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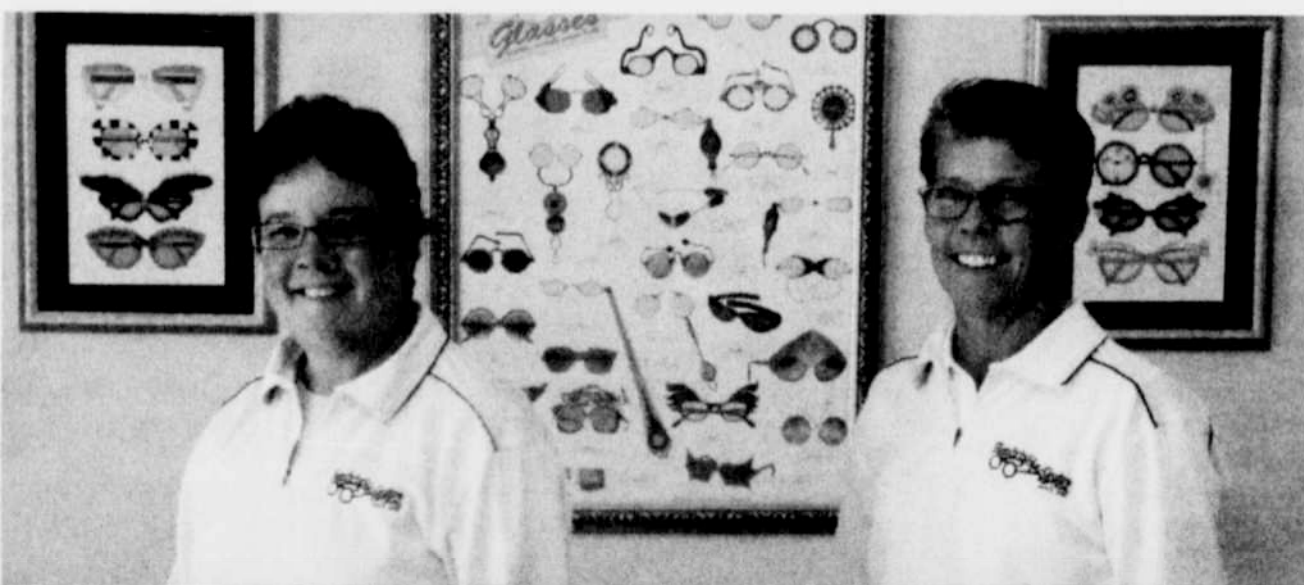
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medicine in general, and specifically to the relationship between DoveLewis and the PVMA."

Dickey, said Mueller, was recognized certainly for his support of DoveLewis. But it's Dickey's philanthropic spirit in general that compelled the nonprofit to give him the service award.

"We really appreciate him for being a lightning rod, and for being a great example of a local business that gives back generously and can still be a success and continue to grow," explained Mueller.

"Of course I was thrilled for a number of reasons; DoveLewis really delivers on their mission statement," said Dickey. "If you have ever had an injured pet or animal like I have, and had to rush over to DoveLewis, frantic and afraid, they are remarkable in how quickly they help you and simply get you calmed down and your animal cared for."

DoveLewis' My Wet Nose Soirée raised approximately \$240,000.

For more information about Bill Dickey and Morel Ink, visit morelink.biz. For more information on Dr. Craig Quirk and the Rose City Veterinary Hospital, visit rosecityvet.com.

— Ryan J. Prado

**Religion, Sexuality Take
Spotlight in LGBTQ
Town Hall Forum**

A town hall forum held the evening of Wednesday, October 5 for Portland's LGBTQ community sparked discussion on the interplay between faith and sexuality.

About 60 people attended the forum at the Process Work Institute, which was held in response to the Q Center's dialogue with conservative mega-church Mars Hill. Q Center and Mars Hill plan to hold monthly discussions after the church encountered opposition to its plans to open a location in Southeast Portland. Mars Hill, like most conservative evangelical churches, preaches that homosexuality is a sin.

The forum was intended to foster dialogue between those who approved of Q Center's actions and those who did not. Q Center spokesman Logan Lynn and psychotherapist Stephen Karakashian spoke at the beginning of the event in support of Q Center. *Just Out* columnist Daniel Borgen spoke in personal opposition. No representative from Mars Hill attended the forum.

Most of the people who spoke during the event supported Q Center's approach, like Karla Ablack-Manning, who talked about how her fundamentalist Christian mother grew to accept her and her partner: "When people get to know us as people, it can change how they perceive us even if it doesn't change their beliefs," she said.

Forum moderator Dawn Menken asked three times for perspectives from the "other side," that opposed, and several stood up to express their concerns.

"I don't want a dialogue with them at all," said Myriam Rahman. "If they're not going to accept me, if they're going to judge me, if they're going to think I can't be who I am, I don't want to have that conversation at all."

"It's so nice hearing that everyone's so open, but I'm not there," she said.

Many of the people in the room spoke about their experiences with fundamentalist Christianity and how it had hurt them in the past as sexual minorities. At one point, a man spoke up from the crowd to apologize for causing the same kind of pain as a pastor for 30 years. The man, who gave only his first name, Dave, came out as gay one year ago.

"For 43 years I saw myself as the sexual equivalent of an alcoholic," he said. As he spoke, he leaned on a beach ball sitting on his lap. He said he carries the beach ball with him now as a reminder of what it felt like to be in the closet—like trying to keep a beach ball below water.

Three weeks ago, Dave said, he went to a gay bar and danced with a man for the first time.

"Was that what my high school prom was supposed to feel like?" he asked, to resounding applause.

He then tossed the beach ball into the air, and everyone bounced it around the room.

Just Out will continue to cover the dialogue between Q Center, Mars Hill and the LGBTQ community at large.

— Aaron Spencer

**Confluence Recovers
Stolen Trailer in Time for
New Season**

Thanks to the honesty and courage of one Salem resident, the Confluence Chorus is celebrating the recovery of its stolen trailer as it prepares to open its 2011-12 season.

The recently purchased cargo trailer was stolen from the parking lot of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem sometime between Sunday, September 11 and Thursday, September 15 and recovered during the last week of September, said Confluence public relations officer Karen Winget.

"It was found in Salem loaded with ATV equipment in the driveway of a home," Winget said.

The alleged thieves apparently offered to sell the trailer to a neighbor for \$200. Suspicious of the low selling price, the neighbor went to Trailers Plus with the vehicle identification number to see if the trailer might be stolen.

"It amazes me because that takes courage," Winget said. "They live right next door to this person."

Confluence had purchased the vehicle from Trailers Plus, so the information turned up quickly and the dealer called chorus members, who reported the discovery to the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

Insurance covered most of the cost of purchasing a new trailer, but the chorus had to pay the deductible out of pocket. The old trailer has been impounded by police and