

DIVERSITY

The Portland Observer

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Legals eagles deliver constitutional grounds for gay marriages

BY SABBINA SAKATA, PORTLAND OBSERVER STAFF

Last Friday while pavements were scorching outside, the grand Pavillion Room at downtown Es Hilton Hotel on Broadway heated the recently explored abyss of same-sex marriage and its constitutional aspects.

John Terry and Madelyn Wessel, both attorneys actively involved with this controversial issue, spoke abo at the legal implications of same-sex marriage and the emerging events in the court system.

Congress is pushing to pass a ban on gay marriage in the form of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which attempts to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. The provision received a 342-67 House vote and now moves onto the Senate where experts expect passage to be effortless.

President Clinton declared that if it goes through he promises to sign it into law.

However, the Hawaiian Court System has wrestled with the constitutionality of gay marriages since 1991 and legalization is anticipated.

Originating from a lawsuit against the State of Hawaii brought on by a couple who was denied the right to legally marry, the courts turned to the equal rights amendment and agreed that the state must show compelling interest in order to bar such rights. The Governor of Hawaii showed equal support.

"We expect to win in Circuit Court, and face the state's appeal to the Hawaii Supreme Court in 1997," said Tom Ramsey, Co-coordinator for the Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project, "unless the state can present compelling arguments for NOT issuing marriage licenses to same gender couples."

The Hawaiian case resumes on September in Circuit Court.

Inner city kids' dream becomes reality

Five years ago, two Philadelphia teens — Carl Smalls and Allison Trapp — never imagined they would be rowing in boats on the Schuykill. Today, they will realize their dream for the second time as they return to the Fairmount Park Commission's Summer Rowing Camp.

Founded three years ago by the Fairmount Park Commission, the City of Philadelphia and Comcast Metrophone, the Rowing Camp has given more than 200 young people the chance to experience the sport for the first time.

"It's been a terrific three years for us, and we couldn't be happier with the level of commitment and enthusiasm of our campers," said William E. Mifflin, executive director of the Fairmount Park Commission.

"We anticipate at least a few of our graduates becoming junior varsity or even varsity rowers, and they wouldn't have done that if not for the exposure and motivation the Rowing Camp provided," he said.

Born out of a controversy over the need to include more minorities in high school and collegiate rowing clubs, the camp has fulfilled its promise to help inner city kids participate in this exciting sport.

"When you see these kids laughing and obviously enjoying learning about rowing, you realize the tremendous impact it has on their lives," Standig said, "Even though only a few campers will go on to a varsity level, the experience will be one that will hopefully last a lifetime."



Madelyn Wessel

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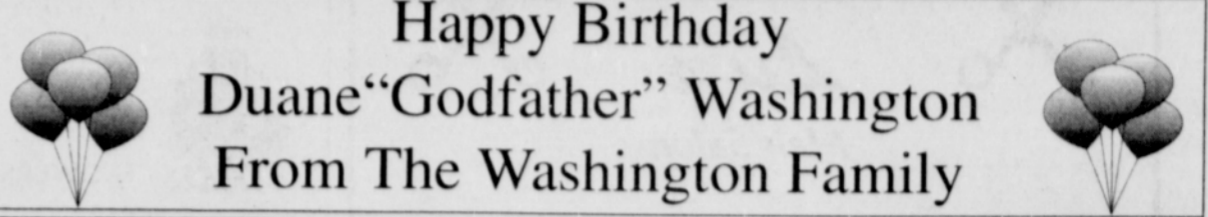


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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), is known throughout the nation as a progressive government agency and as a leader in team development and performance measures. ODOT is responsible for the coordination of transportation programs between and among all governmental organizations within the state. We have immediate opportunities for the following positions:

Human Resource Development Coordinator/Specialist (Program Technician 2)

Put your computer setup, installation and support skills to work with the Oregon Department of Transportation in Salem. The ideal candidate will have a degree or certificate of completion in Computer Science, Data Processing, or a closely related field AND one year of user support experience. Two additional years of data processing experience may be substituted for the degree or certificate. Salary \$2,060 - \$2,732 monthly + benefits. Completed application materials must be received by August 12, 1996. Announcement No. OODT6222. Call (503) 986-4030 (TTY 503-986-3854) to request application packet.

AND a valid Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Salary \$2,372 - \$2,605 monthly + benefits. Completed application materials must be received by August 12, 1996. Announcement No. OODT6175A. Call (503) 986-4030 (TTY 503-986-3854) to request application packet.

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For other ODOT opportunities call our Recruitment JOBLINE at (503) 986-3847.

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

Stationary Boiler Operator — Facilities Services

Two years experience as a boiler operator; or completion of an approved boiler operator apprenticeship program is required. Major duties include performing maintenance on high pressure boilers, steam turbines and various pumps; placing boilers on a computerized system; inspecting for leaks or other abnormalities; and performing chemical analysis of boiler water, raw water, etc. Salary: \$2,129 monthly. All application materials must be received by closing date of August 8, 1996.

General Mechanic — Facilities Services

Four years of experience maintaining, repairing and fabricating parts for machinery, tools and equipment; or completion of an approved mechanical maintenance apprenticeship program. Major duties include operating, maintaining and repairing ventilating and exhaust fans, air compressors; repairing and calibrating gauges and pump controls; and boiler operation. Salary: \$2,160 monthly. All application materials must be received by closing date of August 8, 1996.

To obtain application materials for the above OSU positions, contact OSU Department of Human Resources, 14th & Jefferson, Corvallis, OR 97331-2132, (541) 737-3103, TTY (800) 735-2900.

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We are currently seeking full-time OTs to fill vacancies in the following areas: Forensics Alcohol and Drug Unit - with vocational emphasis; and Geropsychiatric Program - including head injury unit. Salary is negotiable and benefits package is excellent. If interested, contact Barb Adams, Director of Occupational Therapy, Oregon State Hospital, 2600 Center Street N.E., Salem, OR 97310, phone (503) 945-9978, TTY (503) 945-2996.

These are just some of the current openings available with the State of Oregon. For additional information, a copy of the State of Oregon Application Form and more complete announcement listings, call the State Jobline (Oregonian Inside Line) (503) 225-5555 #7777, TTY (503) 378-4672, visit your local Employment Department, or log onto our web site at <http://www.das.state.or.us/jobs/>. The State of Oregon and all its divisions are proud to be equal opportunity employers.

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