

Councilmen support, 'define' gay rights

By BECKY YOUNG
Of the Emerald

Both opponents and proponents of Ballot Measure 51 have "veered" from the real issue, according to Eugene City Council members Jack Delay and Scott Lieuallen.

"What we're talking about is discrimination, not prejudice," said Delay. "The popularity of homosexuality is not the question. It's obvious the people protected by this ordinance are a very small minority."

Delay and Lieuallen held a press conference Monday morning to clarify Measure 51, which would remove protection for

homosexuals from the city's human rights ordinance.

"We feel a responsibility to explain to the public the nature of the decision that faced the council last fall and now faces the public," Lieuallen said.

Delay and Lieuallen were two of the five council members who voted last fall to amend the city's human rights ordinance to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations on the basis of "sexual orientation."

The amendment was placed on the May 23 primary ballot when opponents of the measure collected more than 10,000 signatures favoring its repeal.

Delay said opponents of the measure are trying to eliminate prejudice against homosexuals and the measure's supporters are trying to institutionalize prejudice.

"Neither side is correct in that focus," Lieuallen said. "We need to focus on the legal question of human rights."

He said the council was presented with investigative reports by public agencies and testimony by a broad range of citizens.

"This testimony, evidence and research clearly shows that there



Jack Delay



Scott Lieuallen

Photos by Becky Young

is arbitrary and unjustified discrimination against members of the community based entirely upon the fact or the mere suspicion of their sexual orientation."

Delay said the real issue voters must decide is whether those who otherwise adhere to community standards of citizenship and conduct be denied employment, housing or public accommodation

solely on the basis of their private lives.

"The answer to this question should be obvious and we can only wonder what alternatives to employment and housing the proponents of this measure have in mind," he said. "Passage of the referendum will institutionalize discrimination"

Delay said the several recent

cases of gay rights ordinances being repealed have not been based on straight forward problems with the ordinances. "This is an emotional issue, one that divides and tears apart members of the community," he said.

Most legislation protecting minorities would be repealed if put to a vote, Delay and Lieuallen said.

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'Save Children' director says Anita gave \$20,000 to beat St. Paul, Wichita gays

MIAMI (AP) — Anita Bryant's anti-homosexual organization poured \$20,000 into the Wichita, Kan., and St. Paul battles to defeat gay rights laws and is ready to put down more cash for other such crusades, a spokesman says.

Ed Rowe, executive director of Protect America's Children, an organization born of Bryant's victory against homosexual rights in Miami last June, said the group has sent a representative to Seattle where two policemen are trying to repeal that city's homosexual-rights ordinance.

If the policemen's case is legal, he said, the group will contribute

money to the cause. He said the amount has not been decided.

In Wichita, voters went to the polls in overwhelming numbers Tuesday to repeal the city's homosexual-rights ordinance. St. Paul voters repealed a similar ordinance last month.

Rowe said he was recently recruited from Los Angeles, to help Bryant expand her war on homosexuality through a new tax-exempt organization called "Anita Bryant Ministries."

Bryant was not available for comment.

Rowe said the two organizations hold different types of char-

ters, but share the same office, employees and resources.

Funding for both groups comes from direct-mail appeals, both for specific campaigns and general needs, and from "large contributions from citizens of some means," Rowe said.

Rowe said both organizations plan to make public financial reports at the end of the year, but he wouldn't disclose his salary or the amount of contributions.

"It's not that we're ashamed of it or anything like that, but we might need legal advice on that," he said. "We are a long way from our first million dollars. When you think of Billy Graham and his \$30 million annual income, and Jerry Falwell and his \$20 million, we are a long way from that."

Rowe, 52, an Independent Baptist minister and former director of the Christian Freedom Movement, said he was recruited by Bryant after she read his book, "Save America," which urges Christians "to get off the church pews and into the life of the nation."

"My home phone rang and it was Anita Bryant. She said, 'I've been reading your book and it has come at a time of great decision-making in my life. I agree with your thinking. Would you consider serving as executive director of Protect America's Children?'" Rowe said.

Rowe said he had not been involved in any of the homosexual rights battles and he never met Bryant. He had resigned from his position in the Christian Freedom Movement in 1976 to write the book.

"I came on faith. I just have great confidence that this organization has a future. I have a good feeling about it," he said.

Rowe said Bryant's Ministries plans to open a Miami center to counsel homosexuals and their families



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