

## Queen: has 'guarded optimism'

"If people say Eugene is a mellow city, they haven't been here after dark," a gay male says. He adds that violent incidents do take place, but they aren't reported and don't attract too much interest.

"Things have quieted down now — I don't want to stir it all up again," one beating victim explained.

Two years ago, most violence was to property. Mother Kali's bookstore had some windows smashed. Windows and equipment (including some trucks) were trashed at the Starflower office.

A "closet" gay — then employed at KASH (during its all-news format) — had his van badly damaged: the wind-shield smashed and "QUEER" was painted down the side in two-foot-high, acid-based letters. "Fire your queer" was spray-painted on the side of the radio station.

It was part of a body of incidents that included a death threat "to the gay community," taped in an LCC radio studio.

"It's all so gut-level!" says Carol

# Leaders of opposing groups weary after long gay rights battle

By JOHN THOMAS  
Of the Emerald

Queen, head of the Gay People's Alliance (GPA). Most of it is petty, day-to-day harassment, like having a group of young toughs drive by on 13th Avenue, yelling "Faggot! Faggot!" Queen and her friend caught up to them at a traffic light.

"Faggots are the males," she explained to the carload. "Females are called 'dykes.' If you're going in for this sort of thing, you ought to at least get the terminology right!"

Queen doesn't escape problems even at work, where her employer and co-workers are tolerant and friendly. Even with media publicity she hides her sexuality on the job.

"There's that little bit of tension in your gut when you walk in the door at work," Queen says. "It's tension that comes when some-

one asks you a personal question — even something as bland as 'What did you do this weekend?'" How would her co-workers actually handle the truth, she wonders, if she'd been to the coast with a female lover or a Portland gay bar?

Understanding is better than being left alone, Queen says, conceding that it's "ultimately harder to achieve and perhaps not realistic to expect." After all, she says, you're dealing with real fears rooted in identity and self, fears that, somehow, it will "rub off."

Queen expresses "guarded optimism" about chances of victory in a liberal, college town, in a state with a history of progressive legislation, but she has seen and heard a lot of hate in the past year. Privately, Queen sees an even chance of winning, and tenses for a possible fall.

"I don't think defeat is the worst thing that can happen to us, and victory isn't necessarily the very

best thing," Queen says. "It's not like we've taken care of everything when Eugene votes in favor of gay rights."

## Giebar: 'Gut feeling' yes will win

Maureen Giebar looks out through the front window of her affluent home. Outside, the youngest of six children shoots baskets in the drive, and a couple of neighbor kids pretend the Giebar's terrace wall is a fort.

"I wish I'd never gotten into the whole thing," she says. Past months have left new lines and shadows in her face. Giebar had expected a quick victory with all troops home by Christmas.

"I was surprised it (the gay rights amendment) wasn't defeated by the City Council," she sighs. "Sometimes I can't believe it went this far." Giebar maintains homosexuals bring trouble on themselves by "flaunting their lifestyle." They aren't any more of a minority than the two hippies her son picked up hitch-hiking on the coast, who "almost asphyxiated everyone in the car before they got out."

"Of course, if they choose not to bathe, that's their business," she adds. Just don't expect "special privileges" disguised as civil rights, she says.

For many people, Giebar is the VOICE (Volunteer Organization Involved in Community Enactments) movement, a coalition formed less than 24 hours after the City Council approved the amendment, which is variously opposed to abortion, changes in child custody and marriage laws (those that would allow gay couples to marry and adopt children), the ERA and gay rights.

Giebar's quasi-celebrity status in the leadership of VOICE began to wane during the petition drive to put gay rights to a referendum test and simultaneously stall its im-

plementation. The "moon" now threatening to eclipse Giebar's "sun" is Lynn Green, a late-comer to the ranks of VOICE, now its PR chief.

"Some people have told me they're more afraid of their children's contact with me than with the gays," she laughs.

Tough (she has taught desert survival), articulate, media-wise, attractive and energetic, the young wife and mother arrived from San Francisco bristling with tales of Sodom and Gomorrah. Although it is Giebar who is invariably compared to Anita Bryant by both sides, it is Lynn Green who most closely resembles her — physically and philosophically.

The City of San Francisco hires homosexuals and, Green says, death and crime are rampant in its hilly streets. Portland is already "lost" and we've got to save Eugene, she says, and hammers home some main points:

The ordinance grants special privileges to homosexuals at the expense of other citizens, especially businessmen and landlords — whose rights are *really* threatened when they cannot exercise "freedom of conscience."

The homosexuals' best bet is — realistically — a closet or a ghetto, she feels. The majority — heterosexuals — will still decide what is "normal," as it always has. If Eugene gays are bruised, tough: "We're not the ones who brought this out of the closet!"

The two women differ in their attitudes toward the movement's lunatic fringe, attracted like sharks by the "old-time-religion-save-the-Republic" aspects of the fray. Giebar seems closer to them philosophically. However useful, they appear to make Green uncomfortable.

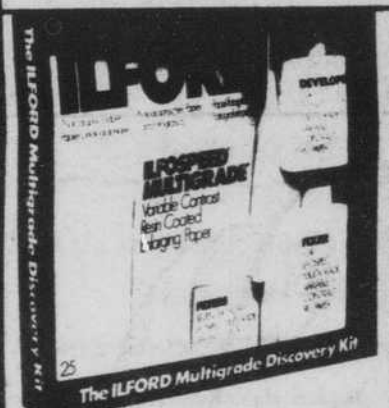
Of 500 people she has met in VOICE, Green says none are "motivated by hatred," but acknowledges the existence of crazies. Fear that they might co-opt the movement is one reason she stays on, Green says, when she would like to take up other issues — saving whales or banning nuclear energy. Meanwhile, there is still "lots to do."

Both Green and Giebar expect a substantial win today. Giebar has a "gut feeling" for the community, whose response she says was only partially expressed by the 10,321 signatures collected on petitions.

Even University students, whom she says are "really starting to resent the gay students," will vote "Yes" for rejection of Ballot Measure 51.

"They (homosexuals at the University) even advertise their services on the walls of the buildings up there — do we really want that?" she asks.

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