

## Conservative group pushes views again

The Oregon Citizen's Alliance is at it again. Lon Mabon, head of the radically conservative group, recently came to Springfield to help begin proceedings for a May, 1992 ballot initiative that would eliminate gay and lesbian rights "once and for all" from the town's anti-discriminatory statute.

Should OCA have its way, the proposed initiative would incorporate a section forbidding government "promotion, encouragement, or facilitation of homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism, and masochism."

Notice the group's lumping together of homosexuality with sexual behavior typically viewed as violent and unacceptable. Nice ploy. Mentioning it in the same breath as masochism should succeed in bending at least a few minds to view homosexuality in the same way OCA does: detestably abnormal.

And that's the trouble here. This latest stunt typifies one of OCA's main objectives, which is to make sure every Oregonian, and ultimately world citizen no doubt, thinks as it does.

The group punished last year's Republican gubernatorial candidate and Oregon Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer when he refused to modify his pro-choice stance by introducing independent candidate Al Mobley. The tactic, revealed during one of the candidates' debates, pulled conservative votes from Frohnmayer, contributing to Barbara Roberts' win.

OCA also successfully campaigned to overturn Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's 1988 legislation prohibiting sexual-orientation discrimination in various parts of Oregon's government.

And the group is now putting a ballot measure together for November, 1992 that would formally classify homosexual behavior as abnormal.

These folks obviously have a bone to pick — problem is, they're forcing that bone down all our throats. The most bothersome thing about OCA is its assurance that their way is the only way. Regardless of peoples' stance on issues such as homosexuality and abortion, many don't appreciate the attempted conversion to OCA ideology.

The group's militant conservatism does more harm than good. It defeats any possibility of compromise by both creating distance and walls between involved parties. OCA should ease its oppressive stance and allow others the right it so readily claims to their opinions and lifestyles.

## Put cars anywhere but the Bean courts

It's not the most glamorous place in the world to play basketball. Some of the nets hang in dirty tatters from drooping, bent hoops. The asphalt surface, covered with faded lines and a scattering of gravel, is pitted and cracked in places. But for basketball players of all abilities, the courts at 15th Avenue and Moss Street are the best game in town.

Because of construction to expand the parking lot across from Bean Complex, cars are temporarily parked underneath the baskets and on the free-throw lines. The amount of available playing space has varied. Although two courts have been cleared and are now protected with sawhorses, the space at Bean is much smaller. It's clear the students have given themselves a raw deal: To gain a few parking spaces, they traded away a place where anyone with a ball and a pair of sneakers can get some exercise and fresh autumn air.

The Bean courts were the only place within walking distance of campus to play outdoor, full-court basketball — the way it was meant to be played. The other courts around campus are either too small (a few half-courts) or too crowded and way too competitive (a few open gyms).

Although this loss is temporary, it is sad the University community chose to forsake the recreational needs of students for the needs of a few cars, which could have been parked anywhere.

Yes, parking is a vital student need, but as the ticking clock vanquishes the last few nice days of fall, the Bean courts — all of them — will be sorely missed. The University should find someplace else to put its students' wheels, and make a statement for the importance of recreation.



## LETTERS

### Subliminal

What I want to know is — who chooses the political cartoons for the editorial page? Whoever it is has recently lost a sense of compassion.

I am appalled at the two cartoons that ran Oct. 16 and Oct. 17, depicting angry and hysterical females. Not only do I find the use of a Viking to represent the feminist movement revolting, but the full-chested, short-skirted, sprawled, crawling female bodies strewn across the floor are definitely an insult to my sexuality.

The text below that cartoon reads "Dammit Senator — I believe we are in another of those cycles." The subliminal message implies that females are sub-human animals when they menstruate.

This connection with the Thomas/Hill trials disgustingly illustrates the complete lack of understanding of sexual harassment, and womyn in general, within our political structure.

The thing I am most upset about is that despite the outcries of angry African-Americans in regard to the cartoon with Clarence Thomas in sheep's clothing, the editor has continued to print potentially harmful cartoons. They are no better than racist or sexist jokes. The only purpose they

serve is to uphold the stereotypes they are based on.

Could this be a sad editorial ploy to get an argument started on the editorial page?

Kerstyn Robie  
Student

### Answers please

Brain teasers: If Jon Wollander (ODE, Oct. 15) proves beyond a doubt that homosexuality is not a result of genetic heredity, can we assume that 10 percent of the population will magically disappear? If Gertrude Stein is retroactively rendered non-existent, will there be a "there" in Oakland and will a rose no longer be a rose?

Why have I never seen a message in the Emerald personals which reads "The pamphlet is handy/the speakers were great/thanks lots for the lecture/on halting date rape?"

If the average life expectancy of a dog is 10 to 15 years, why are so many of the dogs on 13th Avenue under six months old? If we gave money to their owners, would they get bigger?

If student enrollment is down and the campus has less money, why are we still building

new parking structures?

If fraternity houses don't wish to be associated with alcohol and partying, why do many of their members wear T-shirts that associate their house letters with such sayings as "A day without a buzz is a day that never was," "Beer Bust '91," and so on?

The first person to answer all seven questions without a) being cynical, b) being condescending, or c) causing someone else to write an angry reply can have my Cub Scout optimism merit badge. You have until the end of the class period.

Steve Close  
English

### Achtung

Students beware! The Meter Nazis are out there! If you receive a parking ticket (city or University), pay it and keep your receipt!

They may not keep your citations and payments on record. You might go to jail — I did.

Natasha Brady  
Eugene



THE CONGRESSIONAL DINING SCENE.