

OCA initiative opposed by variety of Oregon groups

By Hope Neelson
Emerald Reporter

The Oregon Citizens Alliance initiative to prevent homosexuals from obtaining minority status has come up against widespread opposition from religious and political groups.

The OCA's initiative to amend the Oregon Constitution would require all levels of government, as well as public schools to set "a standard for Oregon's youth that recognizes homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism and masochism as abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse, and that these behaviors are to be discouraged and avoided."

The initiative also states that all levels of government and their agencies shall not use their money or property to "promote, encourage or facilitate homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism or masochism."

Associate Director of the Eugene American Civil Liberties Union, David Fidanque, said the ACLU, one of the groups coming out against the measure, opposed the OCA's initiative because of its discriminatory nature against homosexuals.

"The agenda of the OCA is to impose their moral views on the rest of Oregon. It is a very narrow viewpoint that they have in terms of tolerance for different viewpoints," Fidanque said.

Fidanque said the fact is that many homosexuals are discriminated against strictly on the basis of their sexual preference and do require legal protection.

"Many thousands have been targeted in the workplace and housing for discrimination because somebody thought they might be gay or lesbian," Fidanque said.

But Cathy Phelps, deputy director of the Lane County OCA, said there has not been one court case of discrimination against a homosexual. Phelps said hate crimes are not investigated fully to see if there is real discrimination.

She said legitimate discrimination against minorities includes being barred from bathrooms and restaurants.

"Homosexuals are not being discriminated against any more than anyone else," Phelps said. "But the heterosexuals aren't binding together to be protected by law."

Fidanque said it is ludicrous to say no discrimination exists just because there are no court cases involving discrimination against homosexuals. The reason there are no court cases is because no legal remedies exist for homosexuals who are discriminated against, he said.

"It's like saying I didn't see the bodies being put in the oven, therefore the holocaust didn't happen," he said.

Another complaint against the initiative came from the Ecumenical Ministry of Oregon, a coalition of 17 religious denominations who conduct ministries and social programs.

Ellen Lowe, a member of the Ecumenical Ministry, called the proposal overly broad, saying they particularly object to the use of the word "facilitate."

"When you look at the initiative, the focal point does not become conduct, but it becomes the individual," Lowe said.

The initiative says that state, regional and local governments will not use money to promote or facilitate homosexuals, Lowe said. Facilitate means "make life easier," and there are HIV, drug and alcohol centers that receive a little government money and do make life easier for individuals. Would that place those programs in jeopardy because homosexuals use them also, Lowe asked.

But Phelps said there is nothing anywhere that substantiates the claim that homosexuality should even be termed as morally acceptable, and therefore should receive public money.

She said homosexuals are already equally protected under the Bill of Rights and deserve no special rights.

Victoria Brown of the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Alliance said what the OCA terms as special rights are rights that heterosexuals already have: rights such as not getting fired from jobs or kicked out of housing based on their sexual orientation.

"If I became heterosexual tomorrow, (those rights) would be OK, but since I'm gay, today, it's special rights," Brown said.

Brown said if the initiative passed, not only would protection against discrimination disappear, but funding for any gay

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It came from above

Students in an alley off Kincaid Street dodge puddles left by Wednesday's downpour.

Photo by Jeff Paslay

University restores axed library hours

Student protests prompt backpeddling on cuts

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

University officials announced Wednesday some campus libraries will stay open 13 hours a week longer, after an effort by a fledgling student group to restore the hours cut because of Measure 5.

The hours will be restored at the Knight Library, the Architecture and Allied Arts Library and the Science Library.

The libraries will each be open 97 hours a week beginning winter term, University Librarian George Shipman said in a written statement. The Knight Library will also offer extended hours during dead weeks.

"This fall, a number of students let us know their strong concern about the new schedule," Shipman said. "At the same time, they were extraordinarily supportive and understanding of the library's fiscal problems."

Dylan Coulter, founder of Concerned Students for Library Hours, said he was pleased with the swift action.

"Honestly, I was surprised that it happened so fast," he said.

The group, formed less than two weeks ago, had begun a petition drive and was prepared to begin a letter-writing campaign when the hours were reinstated.

"University administrators have reconsidered their earlier decision and decided to restore all but five of the cut hours to better serve the needs of students and other library users," Shipman said.

"We're glad to make this commitment to improved study conditions for our many serious students," said University Provost Norman Wessells.

"It's a reality, however, that our budgets are already so tight that spending money for this commendable purpose means that other worthy needs will not be funded as we balance our books at the end of the biennium in June," Wessells said.

Shipman estimated the cost of restoring these hours, as well as some hours during summer session and between sessions, will be about \$40,000 a year.

More students will be hired to staff the library dur-

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Stop the hate

Hate-based bigotry and violence will be the focus of the 1991 ASUO fall symposium starting Saturday and continuing throughout next week. The aim of the panels and workshops is to help people learn how to recognize hate oriented behavior in their own lives as well as identifying that kind of behavior in institutions and the community.

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Yaaawwwn

It all began by pulling an all nighter to write a forgotten 10-page paper. Now dormie neighbors, more forgotten class assignments and loud stereos have taken control of his life. It's been days since he's had any sleep. Will Neal Skorpen's *Oscar the Freshman* ever recover from his midterm-induced case of sleep deprivation, or will his lack of rest lead to an early demise? There's only one way to find out.

See *Oscar the Freshman*, Page 9

