

Local play addresses OCA anti-gay initiative

□ Author hopes to influence undecided with *Springfield, USA*

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Associate Editor

Some opponents of the Oregon Citizens Alliance's anti-gay rights initiative in Springfield wear buttons or hand out flyers. Dorothy Velasco wrote a play.

Upset with the activities of the conservative group and at the same time impressed with the eloquence of her neighbors who stood up for human rights, the Springfield resident began work on the project last fall.

The result of her efforts will open 8 p.m. Thursday at McKenzie Theatre, 630 Main St., Springfield. Other performances are scheduled for May 15 and 16 at the same time.

A panel discussion will follow the shows.

Although Velasco doesn't think *Springfield, USA* will change the minds of OCA supporters, she hopes the production will influence people who

are undecided about the issue.

The play focuses on the lives of a conservative family, the Carvers, and their liberal neighbors, railroad worker Marianne Turnquist and her daughter, Jennifer.

Darrell Carver is a city council member who opposes the city's Human Rights Commission. Problems arise when Carver and his wife, Kathy, learn their son, Caspar, is gay.

Velasco, who has written 25 plays, including *Springfield Visits the World* for the city's centennial, structured *Springfield, USA* like *Our Town*.

The playwright emphasized that the production is not a vicious attack on people who support the OCA.

"It's not showing anybody as a villain," Velasco said. "It's showing people as well-meaning but not well-informed."

Although the play is loosely based on Springfield events, Velasco said the play's characters do not represent specific people.

"It's entirely fictional," she said. "Yet I can't help putting things in it that I hear over and



Darrell Carver (Ron Hart) confronts his son, Casper (Kerstin Gilg) in the local play, Springfield, USA, about the OCA's anti-gay initiative. The play will run May 7, 15 and 16 at McKenzie Theatre in Springfield.

over again, like, 'I don't hate gays, I just don't like their lifestyle.'"

Alison Stebbins, a University student who plays Jennifer Turnquist, said she is a little worried that she and the other actors will be harassed after the performances.

"The first thing I was told when I got on to the cast was 'I hope you're not afraid to have your tires slashed or your car egged,'" she said.

So far, the cast hasn't encountered any problems.

One of the points made by the play is that there are no surefire ways to tell who is gay or lesbian and who is not. Ironically, some of the play's gay

characters are played by straight actors and vice versa.

Dan-Patrick Evarts, a gay University student, plays the gay teen-ager's straight brother.

"It's not really strange," he said. "I just play it as a real person."

Evarts said he has learned a lot about OCA supporters from participating in the production.

"I'm never going to be able to agree with that point of view," he said. "But it's educated me so that I better know how to respond when someone starts putting their views forward."

For now, Evarts is hoping *Springfield, USA* will change

the way people view gays and lesbians.

"I would like Lon Mabon and all the people from the OCA to come," Evarts said. "I would like people to see another side of the issue. It's my life they're messing with."

Proceeds from the May 7 show will benefit STOP PAC and money made from the May 15 performance will go to Clergy and Laity Concerned.

Admission is \$6-\$10 on a sliding scale. Tickets are available at the McKenzie Theatre and Antique Peddlers in Springfield, and at the Clergy and Laity Concerned office and Mother Kali's Books in Eugene.

Prevent SEXUAL ASSAULTS

One shot stops your assailant up to 35 min. Fast and accurate—10/18ft range. Effective even on a person under influence of narcotics or alcohol.

Unprecedented Warranty Call: (503) 687-7143
Free Delivery 747-2548 / 343-0950



Swimwear 1992



Come see our selections of matching beachwear and Rayban, Oakley and Sun Cloud sunglasses

Validated

**EUGENE
ATHLETIC**

Parking



Saturday
9-6:30

Mon. thru Thursday 9:30-6:00 • Fri. 'til 7 pm
94 West Broadway • Eugene, Oregon • 343-1288
Downtown Eugene

Sunday
11-5



Librex

SCHOLASTIC DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The Librex 386SX/20 Notebook with 20 Mb Hard Disk, 4 Mb RAM, MSDOS, 6.2 lbs. is now available to schools, students, faculty and educational staff at an incredible price

386SX/20 \$1299



2180 Dwight Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

For More Information
Call 1 (800) 766-2948

Prices and Configurations subject to change without notice

Alpine Import Service

The Volvo Specialists

Shuttle Service

- ★ ASE CERTIFIED ★
- ★ ASE Certified Techs
- ★ One day service (most work)
- ★ One full year guaranty (on all work)
- ★ UPS parts service to out-of-town VOLVO owners



MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:30-5:30
Call 726-1808
FOR APPOINTMENT

12th and MAIN in SPRINGFIELD, OR. 97477

DO YOU
DREAM
OF SLEEPING
ON A CLOUD?

**ROCK SOFT
FUTON**

1122 ALDER
686-5069

**Weekend
Special
\$48.00**

250 FREE MILES
Friday afternoon
to
Monday Morning

A-WAY

RENT A CAR
683-0874

110 W. 6th
(By the Hult Center)
Some Restrictions