

# Nerds Against Nine fight intolerance

## Political Roundup

They're not very social or popular. They're more likely to use pocket protectors than wear Paris perfume.

They're proud nerds — make that former nerds — who have organized to help defeat Ballot Measure 9 this November.

Nerds Against Nine, based in Eugene, is just one of the 17 groups that have filed with the Secretary of State's Office to oppose the measure, which would amend the state constitution to declare homosexuality "abnormal and perverse."

Eileen Simpson, one of the group's founders, said it has become very popular with adults. Members sold 200 lime-green "Nerds Against Nine" buttons at the Eugene Celebration.

The idea for the group came from a chat Simpson had with some friends earlier this year.

"I was talking about when I was in high school and a teacher gave me some guff about being gay," she said. "I said, 'I wasn't gay. I was a nerd.'"

The group's slogan is "It Could Have Been Us," Simpson said, explaining that even though the rights of homosexuals are in jeopardy now, the proponents of Measure 9 could have just as easily targeted another minority group.

The humorous name, Simpson said, is a light-hearted and non-threatening way to make a point that differences among people should be valued and not scorned.

"We also view people who are pro-OCA as being intolerant of differences in any form," she said.

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You'd expect good, suspenseful, big-screen stories to

be produced by Hollywood and not Oregon activists. Ah, a twist in the plot!

Ever persistent anti-nuclear activist Lloyd Marbet will try his hand at entertaining drama Friday to make his case against closing the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant.

He'll present a slide presentation in the EMU Walnut Room at 7 p.m. called "The Great Trojan Subterfuge."

A flyer announcing the show on the nuclear power plant says that a subterfuge is "any plan or action used for escape or concealment."

Marbet and others have been trying to close Trojan for more than 10 years. This November Oregon voters will decide on two measures, Ballot Measure 5 and 6, which propose closing Trojan immediately until earthquake and waste storage conditions are met.

Portland General Electric, which owns Trojan, has called for a four-year phase-out of the plant.

Colleen O'Neill, a fundraising coordinator for Marbet's Don't Waste Oregon Committee, said the group is not willing to settle for PGE's phase-out because she claims it will cost ratepayers money to keep it open.

And she said she believes the power plant is unsafe and unable to withstand an earthquake.

Don't Waste Oregon, she said, doesn't like the way PGE has in a sense said to users that "you can't fire use; we quit."

However, O'Neill said she realizes that she and other anti-Trojan activists may seem stubborn in their positions now that PGE has agreed to close Trojan.

"We may sound like whiners, but 'no' it's not good enough" to merely phase it out, she said.

By Rene DeCair

## Hate mail delivered through window

(AP) — A rock carrying hate mail was thrown through the window of a gay activist's front door, police said Thursday.

Scott Seibert of Eugene told officers a crashing sound awakened him early. He found his front door partially open and shattered glass from one of the door's window panes on the floor.

The note attached to the rock contained threatening and obscene language and warned Seibert not to talk to the police or media.

The incident was the latest in a series in the Eugene area involving people on both sides of the debate over Measure 9, the anti-gay rights initiative on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Other recent incidents reported to police include burglaries at Seibert's home, hate mail delivered to Measure 9 opponents and pink triangles painted on or near the homes of two Springfield residents who support the initiative. Pink triangles are a symbol of the fight for gay rights.



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