

Gay advocacy group questions campaign

Demonstrators intended to protest the message in Gordon Smith's commercial

Dave Goldberg
for the Emerald

A demonstration planned for Thursday by the gay advocacy group Basic Rights Oregon to express concern over a Gordon Smith campaign commercial was thwarted by inclement weather. Four supporters showed up at the Federal Building in downtown Eugene to protest the commercial, which portrays Smith as an advocate and

supporter of gay and lesbian rights. The commercial features Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, the 21-year-old Wyoming student who was killed in 1998 in an anti-gay motivated hate crime. In the commercial, Judy Shepard endorses Smith's campaign, saying Matthew "would have liked Gordon a lot."

Critics say Smith has not always been a supporter of the gay and lesbian rights movement.

Basic Rights Oregon volunteer and Eugene resident Alan Brown suggested that all one has to do to know where he stands on gay and lesbian rights is look at his record.

According to Harriet Merrick, a volunteer and former chairwoman for BRO, Smith voted against Senate Bill 34 in 1993, which would have prohibited discrimination in employment, public accommodations and real property transactions on the basis of sexual orientation.

BRO also takes issue with Smith's stance on Measure 9. In 2000, the Oregon Citizens Alliance sponsored the measure that sought to prohibit public schools from sanctioning homosexuality.

"He was asked to oppose it," said Merrick. "He did not."

Smith's office was not available for

comment at press time.

Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political organization, has endorsed Smith. According to its Web site, the main reason for their endorsement is his sponsorship of the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act in 2001, which broadened the definition of federal hate crimes to include attacks based on sexual orientation, gender and disability.

While BRO admits Smith has begun to support federal hate-crime legislation, it claims his record on lesbian and gay issues makes him an unreliable advocate.

"Many folks had seen his TV ad, and we want to focus on his overall record," Merrick said. "While we appreciate his personal growth in some areas, our feeling is that Gordon Smith's record is inconsistent and we cannot count on him."

The steady rains may have diminished the size of Thursday's event, yet Jan Anderson, a Eugene resident and BRO supporter, was not deterred.

"I found it very informative," said Anderson, who called Smith's commercial a "manipulative ploy."

Dave Goldberg is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

Campus Watch lists Stanford as 'anti-Israel'

Joanna Petrone
The Stanford Daily (Stanford U.)

STANFORD, Calif. (U-WIRE) — Stanford University is among 18 universities targeted for "anti-Israel bias" by a watchdog organization that many in academia perceive as a threat to freedom of expression.

The stated goal of the new organization, Campus Watch, is "to improve Middle Eastern studies in North America" by targeting "anti-Israel and anti-American bias" in

academia.

"Stanford students are getting a very poor interpretation of the Middle East, an extremist viewpoint that doesn't tolerate other viewpoints. ... Stanford students should be concerned," Campus Watch founder Daniel Pipes said.

Since its inception this year, Campus Watch has been awash with controversy, as a large number of students and professors oppose the organization's policy of naming and

"monitoring" suspect universities, professors and student activists.

Stanford Prof. Joel Beinin, who was one of the professors Campus Watch originally posted a dossier on, said, "This sort of McCarthy-style list-making and 'monitoring' has no place in university life, as its purpose is to intimidate people from expressing their views and to set boundaries on permissible speech."

The Campus Watch Web site states, "American scholars, to vary-

ing degrees, reject the views of most Americans and the enduring policies of the U.S. government about the Middle East."

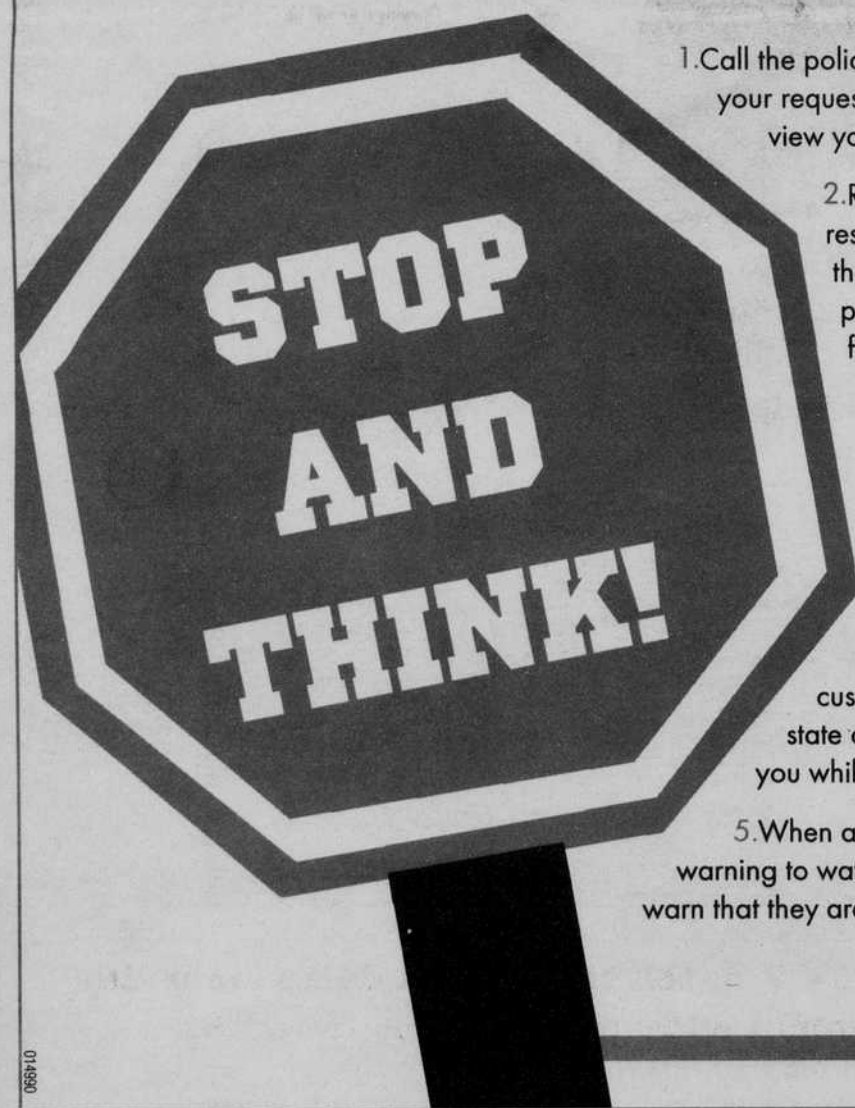
Pipes said this problem was brought to the surface last year with "the publication of Martin Kramer's book, 'Ivory Towers on Sand' ... (which) lays out the case that Middle East studies are seriously flawed." Pipes also pointed to the anti-Israel campus demonstrations of last spring as impetus for starting Cam-

pus Watch.

Campus Watch's Web site says, "This bias (in Middle Eastern Studies) seems to stem from two main causes. First, academics seem generally to dislike their own country and think even less of American allies abroad. ... Second, Middle East studies in the United States has become the preserve of Middle Eastern Arabs, who have brought their views with them."

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WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PARTY STARTS TO GET OUT OF CONTROL



1. Call the police yourself if uninvited guests disrupt your party or if your guests won't pay attention to your requests to behave and obey the law. Call before things get too out of control. Police will view your trying to keep things under control as a preventive measure.
2. Respond positively if a police officer comes to your house. The officer is most likely responding to a complaint. Make sure the person interacting with the police officer at the front door is sober and able to be responsive to their requests. Do as much as possible to comply with what the police are asking you to do. Enlist the help of your friends and housemates.
3. Interfering with a police officer makes a bad situation worse. Do not physically resist the officer under any circumstance. Use common sense and cooperate. Don't throw bottles at or near police officers. If you have committed a crime and a police officer asks you to identify yourself, you need to do so. Always tell a police officer your name if asked. Giving a false name is a separate offense and will likely escalate what might have been a citation into a trip to jail.
4. Understand that you can be arrested. A police officer may take someone into custody for any violation of law that carries a potential jail penalty. This includes most state criminal laws and many city ordinances. For some violations, an officer may detain you while verifying your identity and issuing a citation.
5. When a police officer asks you to clear an area, leave right away. If you stay around after the warning to watch what's happening, you may be cited for interfering with a police officer. If police warn that they are going to use tear gas, you need to get as far away as fast as you can.

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