

Rally: Karen Minnis stalls bill in the House

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demonstrator Elizabeth Tschalaer of Salem said.

Between 800 and 1,000 supporters showed up at the Capitol steps Wednesday evening, said Eugene activist Sally Sheklow, who led the crowd in a series of cheers and chants supporting the bill and criticizing Minnis and the legislative progress of the House.

The hour-long demonstration included speakers such as Gov. Kulongoski, BRO Executive Director Roey Thorpe, Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams and State Senators Ben Westlund and Alan Bates. The senators wrote the bill along with Senators Kate Brown and Frank Morse, who were not present.

BRO provided "While You Were Out" mock phone message sheets for supporters to fill out in response to the House's recess earlier in the day, and delivered the messages to Minnis' office the following morning.

Participants of the demonstration included BRO volunteers, religious organizations, GLBT activists and friends and family of those who do not currently have the rights laid out by the bill.

Phaedra Harris, of Southern Oregon University, came to the demonstration with a sign covered in hearts and peace symbols made by her 5-year-old daughter, Indigo Rose.

"My 5-year old made this sign because she knew we were coming to talk to some people who are in charge of the laws," Harris said. "She wants them to know that love is good."

Wednesday's demonstration was,

in part, an effort to draw public attention to the House, and place pressure on Minnis to put the bill to a vote.

"I think at this point in the sessions, organizations give up," Rebekah Kassell, BRO communications director, said. "It's our job to make sure the speaker cannot go home without addressing this issue."

BRO promoted the bill with the support of the Senate and Gov. Kulongoski.

"This is a collective call for the House to put it to a vote," Kassell said.

Before the House can vote on the floor, the bill has to be read by a committee appointed by the Speaker, which is where the bill could stall.

Minnis does have a responsibility to assign the bill to a committee within seven days, Kassell said, but she can assign it to a committee that she trusts will not pass it, or pressure the committee to prevent the bill from ever going to a vote.

"She has the power to put it to committee and not allow it out of committee," said Bates.

According to Basic Rights Oregon, that's just what Minnis did. The morning after the demonstration, Minnis referred the bill to the House Budget Committee for a rewrite, replacing the bill with "reciprocal benefits."

The committee convened, led by Chairman Wayne Krieger, and banned any public, activist or legislative testimony.

The bill was then referred to the Budget Committee.

Normally, representatives could

pull a bill out by a majority vote, which in the House would require a minority of Republican representatives, in this case, at least four, to vote along with Democrats.

"The four republicans that would vote to do that would be ostracized from their party," Bates said. "I think it's extremely unlikely."

However, typical procedural methods for pulling a bill out of committee are prohibited for bills in the Budget Committee.

Oregon State Senate passed the bill July 8.

"It passed almost 2 to 1 in the Senate," said Sheklow, who believes this bill could pass in the House.

The vote mostly fell along party lines with the exception of two republicans who supported the bill and one democrat who opposed. The bill's passage came as no major surprise given the Democratic majority in the Senate.

Despite efforts to prevent the bill from going to a vote, Wednesday's demonstrators are optimistic about its outcome.

"It's going to be a fight, but I think it's a winnable fight," demonstrator Chuck Wynn of Salem said.

"I strongly believe it will pass; it's just a matter of when," Oregon State student Dau Nguyen said.

Regardless of whether the bill passes, supporters see the bill as a moral victory.

"I realized that was my defining moment," Bates said about his writing and supporting the bill. "I took a vote and sponsored a bill that could potentially lose my Senate seat. I'd rather lose my seat."

Festival: Groups collaborate to support civil rights causes

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craft, merchandise and community organization booths; food and a beer garden.

From about 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. the main stage was busy with drag shows, dancing and auctions. It was The Lady Bianca's first performance in a gay pride event. The Lady Bianca performs in drag weekly at Neighbors Bar & Bistro.

"I think it's positive for the community to have something like this," The Lady Bianca said. "This is completely different than performing at a bar. It's more energetic (and) has a different age bracket."

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon provided information about Senate Bill 1000, the state legislative proposal that includes legalizing civil union rights to same-sex couples. The bill was stalled Thursday by House Speaker Karen Minnis after the Senate's approval just two weeks prior.

"We're here defending civil liberties for all people," ACLU intern and University student Dan Platt said, "and we're active in defending the rights of the LGBT community." The Oregon ACLU chapter, a leader in the fight for marriage equality, according to its flier, is attempting to establish a Lane County chapter as well.

The Log Cabin Republicans, represented by Derek Hanna, also had a booth at the PRIDE festival advocating gay rights for Oregon college students.

"Our Log Cabin chapter is here to gather signatures to end the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy," Hanna said.

Also among the information tables was the Network for Reproductive Options.

"We started here the day after Eugene's primary abortion clinic, All Women's Health Services, closed (in July 2002)," board member and staff fundraiser Marti Black said. "Our principle emphasis is on abortion funding, and we are the largest abortion funding organization in Oregon."

Jennifer Webster coordinates the NRO's grassroots health education program that promotes cultural diversity in fertility awareness, birth control, self-examination and developing positive views of sex through workshops.

"We're promoting reproductive rights and transgender rights as allies," Webster said.

Sam's Place, Sundance Natural Foods, Budweiser, HIV Alliance, High Priestess Piercing, Hilton and several other businesses sponsored the festival this year, and more than 22 other local companies supported the PRIDE Festival with donations for two different raffles. More than 40 booths from community organizations, some of them festival contributors, lined the outer edges of the festival with information and merchandise.

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MEETINGS

Equality Network Monthly Meeting

Events affecting the LGBTQ community.
The Baker Downtown Center
10th Avenue and High Street
7 p.m. July 28

ACLU annual membership meeting

Free and open to the public
7 p.m. Oct. 11
Training Center Room, EWEB
500 E. Fourth Ave. Eugene
Contact Polly Nelson: 345-6162
www.aclu-or.org

ORGANIZATIONS

Network for Reproductive Options

P.O. Box 10894
Eugene, OR 97440
www.NROptions.org
Office: 345-5702
Hotline: 513-6607
Toll Free: 1-866-355-9100

Log Cabin Republicans

Contact: Derek R. Hanna
Phone: 317-1287
www.wethepeoplecentraloregon.com

Sexual Assault Support Services

"Providing services to victims and survivors of sexual violence"
24-Hour Crisis/Support Line: 343-7277
Toll Free: 1-800-788-4727

IN BRIEF

Lane Independent Living Alliance 'flies high'

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Lane Independent Living Alliance will host a performance of "Flying High," a series of four one-act plays by Bjo Ashwill.

The plays are comedies that

deal with disability issues.

The plays begin at 7:30 p.m. today in the Hult Center's Soreng Theater. Before the show, at 6:30 p.m., there will be a reception in Studio One hosted by Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy. Tickets cost \$15 and can be purchased online at www.hultcenter.org.

For more information, call Lane Independent Living Alliance at (541) 607-7020.

— Gabe Bradley

Mad Duckling Children's Theatre Presents Judith Viorst **Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day** Book and movie by Judith Viorst Music by Phillip Miller
July 26-30 and August 2-6
All shows begin at 7:30. \$5 tickets for all ages
The Musical was commissioned by the University of Oregon Performing Arts and was first produced in 1988 at the Kennedy Center
Join us on the lawn of the Robinson Theatre on the UO Campus! Limited free parking is available. Discounts for groups of 10 or more.
For information & reservations call **346-4192**
Mad Duckling is made possible with support from the ASUO

\$10
★ Any Two-Topping 12" Pizza
★ Beverage Specials
Get your night started at **TRACK TOWN** AFTER 10 PM SPECIALS
FREE DELIVERY 1809 Franklin Blvd. 284-8484 • Sun.-Thu. 11am-Midnight • Fri.-Sat. 11am-1am

PRINCIPLE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROPERTIES FOR RENT

3340 DONALD
SE Remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath home on large lot with range, refrigerator, dishwasher. \$510+dep. No pets.

4290 OAK
Remodeled SE Eugene 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex with single garage, new range, refrigerator, dishwasher, hookups, yard care. \$725+dep.

3995 E AMAZON
3 bedroom, 2 bath duplex in SE, single garage, wood fireplace, refrigerator, range, dw, w/d, yard care. \$950+dep.

1691 HILYARD
1 bedroom, 1 bath campus apartment. Range, refrigerator. \$495+dep. No pets.

1710 E 19TH
Campus 3 bedroom, 1 bath duplex with range and refrigerator. No pets. \$850+dep.

4710 VILLAGE PLAZA LOOP SUITE 130
EUGENE, OREGON
(541) 284.4110

482 E 16TH
Campus 1 bedroom apartment with range, refrigerator, onsite laundry, bike storage, w/s/g paid. \$525+dep.

1823 HIGH
Campus 3 bedroom, 1 bath home with single garage, range, refrigerator, hookups, yard care. \$1120+dep. No pets.

1685 HIGH
Remodeled campus 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, off-street parking, range, refrigerator. \$595+dep. No pets.

1695 HIGH
Campus 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment with fireplace, range, refrigerator. \$650+dep. No pets.