

Fundamentalist pickets confront concertgoers.

Carrying signs saying "Repent! Or burn in Hell!" about a dozen scruffy-looking fundamentalists confronted people entering Benson High School to attend the latest con-

cert of the Portland Gay Mens' Chorus.

The confrontation last week was the first time in the history of the PGMG that such an incidence had occurred. The PGMG, a four-year-old cultural organization, has appeared before Northwest audiences 19 times. The last three concerts were held in facilities owned by the Portland public schools.

School district officials had received a telephone call the day before the concert advising them of the planned demonstration. The school district has been supportive of PGMG, according to Steve Fulmer, PGMG spokesperson. "The district treats us like any other cultural organization," Fulmer said, in a telephone interview. "No calls were placed to the

district after the concert, only one before," Fulmer added.

The pickets had a "galvanizing effect on the audience," according to Fulmer. "People even came in and bought tickets because the pickets were outside. It brought us more together."

"The pickets did not attempt to be disruptive," Fulmer said. "They just exposed their reactionary attitudes."

Only once previously had there been objections to the Chorus using school district facilities; after the concert at Cleveland High last spring there district had received about 120 calls in opposition. Fulmer said the calls were from the congregations of two fundamentalist churches in Northeast Portland who had been urged by their pastors to call the district with their complaints.

Uncloseted bigot declares candidacy for Congress in 5th District

by Jay Brown

State Senator Walt Brown, D-Oak Grove, said last week that he would definitely seek the Democratic nomination to Congress from the 5th Congressional District.

Brown, 57, is a lawyer and retired Navy lieutenant. He has served in the Oregon Senate since 1975. During the 1983 legislative session, during debate on the session's gay rights bill Brown said that "homosexuals" are protected from discrimination in Oregon because the state "already has a law which prohibits discrimination of the mentally handicapped."

Brown's comment was greeted with dismay by gays and lesbians around the state. Brown later defended his statement in an interview with a reporter from a Portland radio station but refused to talk with a lesbian constituent from his district.

The 5th District is currently represented in Congress by Denny Smith, a Democrat who has consistently voted in favor of the policies of Ronald Reagan.

Also seeking the Democratic nomination in the 5th District are State Senator Ruth McFarland of Woodburn, Portland lawyer Jim Beall and Rep. Peter Courtney, D-Salem.

Lesbian and Gay Pride update

Complete minutes of the weekly Lesbian and Gay Pride steering committee meetings will be posted at Roxy Hart's and Judy's. Highlights of the minutes will be posted on bulletin boards throughout the city. Committee members say they want to make sure that the community makes itself aware of the planning process.

Monitor training will begin sometime in May. Monitors are very important for many of the activities during Lesbian & Gay Pride Week. Monitors are *essential* for the march and rally. The steering committee says "Sign up now!" To make it easy for you to volunteer to be a monitor, the steering committee suggests that you send a letter or post card to: L/G Pride, PO Box 6611, Portland, OR 97228 or call Willow at 232-2251.

As for volunteering for any other committee, the steering committee meets every Thursday at MCC (NE 24th & Broadway) or write to the above address or call Willow.

The steering committee is in urgent need of a phone line; that is someone willing to donate the use of their phone and an answering machine (the steering committee will supply an answering machine if one is not available.)



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