

## Shadburne saga slogs through the mire

Politics and bedfellows don't mix, especially if they are on the payroll.

Multnomah County Commissioner Gordon Shadburne found himself fighting off recall at the end of last month; Shadburne was accused of fiscal malfeasance by his East Multnomah County constituency.

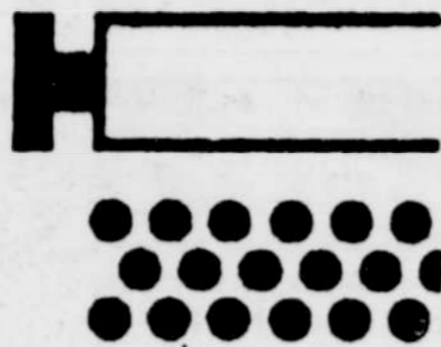
The object of recent media attention because of discrepancies between his squeaky-clean fundamentalist public image and his sybaritic private life, Shadburne's political stock took a definite downturn less than six months after he mailed his notorious "stronghold of Satan" letter to a group of fundamentalist preachers.

In a front page story on May 20, the *Oregonian* alleged that Shadburne had participated in "homosexual activities" and, last October used cocaine. The story also included complaints by East Multnomah County community leaders that Shadburne's private life had led them to question whether he was adequately representing their interests.

Earlier articles in both *Willamette Week* and the *Oregonian* revealed an intimate relationship between Shadburne and his aide, James Sanders and their use of public funds for personal expenditures (trips to California and Canada, hotel and motel rooms, meals at expensive restaurants).

In November, 1985, Shadburne wrote a letter (on Multnomah County stationery) and

## What's going on here!?!



by Jay Brown

mailed it to fifty fundamentalist preachers urging establishment of "homosexuals anonymous" to "help" gays and lesbians, which he said were a "stronghold of Satan."

Shadburne's letter angered the gay and lesbian community. W.C. McRae, *Just Out's* features editor, immediately undertook the task of uncovering Shadburne's duplicity. McRae's investigations prompted an editorial by Mark Zusman, editor of *Willamette Week* in February of this year; since then a number of articles delving into Shadburne's financial records, campaign expenditures, and personal life, were published in both *Willamette Week* and the *Oregonian*. Following the *Oregonian* story on May 20, Shadburne issued the following statement:

"This morning the *Oregonian* has published a very sensational, politically timed but not newsworthy nor true 'expose.' Is it responsible or even fair for the media to make allegations using unnamed, unrevealed 'sources'? I am disappointed that The *Oregonian* has chosen to publish an article with this tone, based, in large part, on unnamed

sources alone.

"I have requested the district attorney to investigate the audit. As to the allegations of my personal life, I would not even dignify them with a response."

The Shadburne-Sanders relationship has long been an open secret. People in the gay community have been reluctant to openly discuss the relationship because of their own apprehensions at finding themselves in similar circumstances. But Shadburne went too far. Shadburne's politically motivated homophobia and hypocrisy demanded that he be exposed.

Shadburne's political career exploited a constituency of homophobic fundamentalists. Shadburne has consistently spoken against and voted against gays and their right to civil protections. And now Shadburne's constituency is in the process of recalling him from office; but, ironically, his constituency is charging him with dishonesty and malfeasance, not his heretofore hidden sexual orientation.

## Eunuchs have a ball in Bhopal

Compiled by W.C. McRae

About 3,000 eunuchs met at Bhopal, India in April for a two-day conference designed to increase public awareness of the discrimination they face in Indian society. There are about 50,000-100,000 eunuchs in India — men who were castrated at birth or were born with deformed genitals. Eunuchs are considered at the bottom of the still-strict caste system. Those attending the conference elected a new national guru. The last recognized leader died of after-effects of the Union Carbide toxic gas leak in 1984.

## AIDS outstrip projection

CAP reported late last month that newly-reported cases of AIDS in Portland were roughly double anticipated levels. Ten new cases of AIDS were reported in Portland during a five-week period in April and May, as many new cases as were projected over a 13-week period. "The increase in diagnoses indicates that gay men are not heeding safe sex guidelines," says CAP. But studies indicate that the incubation period of the HTLV-III virus may be as long as six years, and present cases may reflect exposure as long ago as 1980.

## Court to rule on AIDS as disability

The US Supreme Court, in the process of reviewing the Georgia sodomy law, has

agreed to review a case that commentators believe may ultimately decide whether AIDS and other infectious diseases can legally be considered a "handicap." The case involves a Florida woman teacher who was dismissed for having tuberculosis. Her school board contends that communicable diseases "differ markedly" from handicaps. If communicable diseases are ruled to be "handicaps" under the law, then persons with AIDS and sero-positive tests could receive legal protection against discrimination in the workplace. People with handicaps are legally protected from discrimination by employers.

## AIDS agencies merge

As of last month, CHES/PAL and Cascade AIDS Project have merged boards of directors. The organization, now simply called CAP, stresses that there have been no changes in services offered. CHES/PAL and CAP will continue to operate as before, only with one, instead of two, boards of directors. The executive director is Brown McDonald.

## \$Millions for testing, \$0 for research

The US House of Representatives has passed legislation that seeks to eliminate a \$40 million appropriation for AIDS-related research in the military. At the same time the bill allows the Defense Department to spend more than \$52 million to test military personnel and recruits for HTLV-3. AIDS Action Council Executive Director Gary MacDonald claims, "It's outrageous that they're going to go ahead and spend money on testing" without funding the research related to that testing.

## Terrigno convicted

Valerie Terrigno, former West Hollywood mayor, has been convicted on 12 counts of embezzling federal funds and sentenced to 60 days in custody in a community half-way house. Terrigno was one of three openly gay candidates elected to West Hollywood's City Council in 1984.

## Sit on a homophobe's face

Give your your favorite homophobe squatting rights at Portland's L/G Pride celebration. The steering committee is looking for sponsors who wish to "decorate" the porta-potties at the rally. For Washington D.C.'s L/G Pride event, sponsors are being encouraged to decorate the toilets with the names of their favorite homophobe. If there's an anti-gay demagogue you'd like to sponsor for reading material at the rally, contact the steering committee, 233-1169.

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