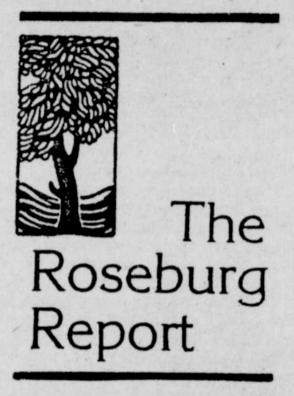


## **Exposing Lutz lies**

## by Billy Russo

As this issue of *Just Out* goes to press, Oregon's election division is investigating charges I brought against an unscrupulous would-be politician, the Rev. Joe Lutz. In a letter dated September 1, I charged him with making false campaign statements in a paid advertisement that appeared in the News-Review, Roseburg's daily paper.

On the Saturday and Monday before the primary, Lutz ran a full-page ad in the News-Review. A quarter of the ad, entitled



Lawmakers Backing Homosexual Bills, consisted of a brief homophobic statement, followed by a list of politicians who co-sponsored gay rights legislation during the 97th Congress. Besides fanning the flames of homophobia with vague threats of affirmative action, the Lutz ad clearly misled voters by implying these bills are before the current (98th) session of Congress.

In the weeks prior to the full-page ad, Lutz's cronies in the Roseburg area wrote a number of letters-to-the-editor which drew voter attention to Packwood's so-called pro-gay position. Five of 15 letters supporting Lutz, attacked Packwood on this issue.

Gay-baiting was a major theme in Lutz's unsuccessful bid for the Republican nomination. Although I can't say it helped Lutz carry Oregon's nine rural counties — including Douglas, it certainly didn't hurt his campaign. My strategy in dealing with biblical bigots My way is to get down in the muck they're raking, grab their leader by the collar and drag him/her down in the mud with me — \$400 suit/dress and all — and rub his/her face in it.

My response to the Lutz campaign appeared in the News-Review's Public Forum a few days after he lost the election:

"I would like to thank Rev. Joe Lutz for publishing the names of the 75 congressmen and nine senators who co-sponsor the national gay rights bill in his recent full page News-Review ad. It takes integrity and courage to support human rights legislation in these times. It's unfortunate that the good reverend lacks these traits.

"And it's sad that sleazy would-be politicians like Lutz could successfully use human rights issues to elbow their way into mainstream politics: it's sinful.

"The homophobe from Milwaukie also lied in his ad when he said the gay rights bill 'would require homosexuals to be given preferential treatment in hiring, housing, and education . . . and mandate that state/public school and other institutions receiving federal funds not only hire but actively recruit homosexuals." "The bigoted bible-thumper stooped to new lows in his effort to get a few more undeserved votes.

"The three bills referred to in the ad would protect lesbians and gays from the random discrimination we routinely experience at the hands of employers and landlords. It would not invoke affirmative action, nor would gay rights legislation require schools to actively recruit homosexuals. We don't need that kind of protection; after all, most of us already have good jobs, and we've been teaching your kids for centuries.

"Lutz's campaign strategies strongly reflect the man's superficiality. Instead of addressing the important political issues of the day, this right-wing minister categorically disagrees with his opponent on almost every issue. Besides being inexperienced in politics, Lutz separates himself from Senator Packwood on only two basic issues: abortion and gay rights; neither of which have significant impact on the everyday lives of most Americans. He plays on the fears of the ignorant.

"This is further demonstrated in the symbolism of his campaign. Since there's nothing that distinguishes the man as a politician, he makes up for his lack of substance by adopting the Red, White and Blue as his campaign colors. Another cheap trick learned from another sleazy minister/politician, Jerry Falwell." With Weaver's withdrawal from the race, Lutz is slithering back into the senatorial campaign as a write-in candidate. Of course the bigot can't win Packwood's seat, but the gay-baiting will certainly escalate here in Douglas County where the Lutz campaign provides a forum for right-wing homophobes.



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hasn't changed since my first run-in with them in 1973, when hundreds of them were bussed in from the suburbs to a Los Angeles Board of Supervisor's meeting where a \$400,000 grant for the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center was being considered.

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Just Out, October 1986