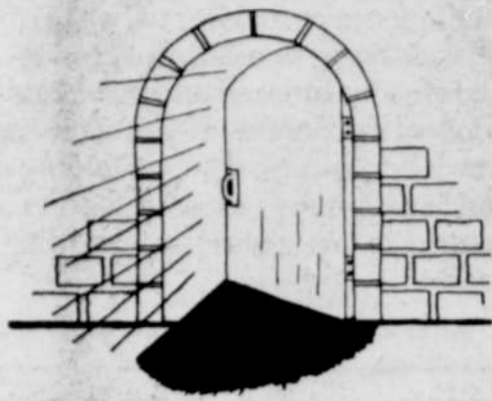


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There is action in Douglas County

by Jesse Corder

Greetings to the gay and lesbian population of Oregon. I say Oregon and not just Portland. I realize *Just Out* is a Portland-based



The Roseburg Report

paper, but I know this publication reaches to the four corners of the state and beyond.

Life in the Roseburg area is as much fun as ever, at least it's fun for me. Some say there's no culture here and they're bored. My standard response is that if there's no culture where you're at, create some of your own. That's what we base our community on, the culture we create, not the culture that has been created for us. In our culture we define ourselves, otherwise we are defined by the standards of others. Uh oh, I'm starting into a sermon, I'd better stop. Anyway, our culture here in the Gay and Lesbian Community of Douglas County is socializing at pot lucks, dance parties, swim parties, BB-Q's, coffee house nights, and sharing with each other at movie night some fine gay and lesbian films and classics, too. All the while our speakers bureau is educating the general public about

our existence by meeting with groups of people. Non-gays will never achieve awareness unless they get to know you as a gay or lesbian person.

In Roseburg, we have no bar in which we may stay separate without dialogue between the diverse cultures of our community. All we have is each other, so we learn to work together. Together we accomplish our goals.

I have a vision. Vision is one thing that has kept the Roseburg community fresh. My vision is attainable, too, but I need your help. I would like to see a coalition of rural Oregon gay and lesbian communities working together so we would be able to speak about the diverse needs of rural Oregonians. It's important for all rural gay people to have a voice and to let people know we're here and how we feel about certain issues. If we say nothing then all we hear is the voice of big city needs which aren't always the needs or wants of rural communities. If this sounds worthwhile maybe in the future we can hold a conference to meet, discuss and network. I'd love to hear your views on this. Write to me, Jesse Corder, C/O GALA, P.O. Box 813, Roseburg, Oregon 97457. If you'd like a complimentary issue of our newsletter please write to GALA at the same address.

We are planning a vigil in response to the recent Supreme Court ruling concerning Georgia Sodomy Laws and the LaRouche Initiative in California. We feel these incidents are very threatening to our rights as individuals. We want our country to know how we feel. It is an atrocity that this sort of thing is happening and if enough folks stand up against it, our action will cause people to take a serious look at themselves in relation to us. I welcome all Oregonians to join us in body and spirit. If you can't be there, have a vigil and voice yourselves in your town. Do it now! Next week might be too late. The vigil will be on the steps of the Douglas County Courthouse on November 2, at 6:00 P.M. Let's show our friends in California some Oregonian support. The statement we wish to convey through our vigil is as follows:

The rights of each individual to the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness is a fundamental, constitutional-backed right.

We, as gay and lesbian individuals protest the recent Supreme Court ruling. This decision by our Supreme Court violates our constitutional rights. Furthermore, we protest the efforts of individuals in our neighboring state of California who are working to pass the LaRouche Initiative. This piece of legislation is not based on factual information. If passed, this initiative will bring unnecessary pain and suffering to countless families and individuals. It will set a precedent of discrimination that will affect every part of our lives.

The message, we, the gay and lesbian people want to convey to the public and to our brothers and sisters in California is our right to love without government intervention.

On November 4th, the voting public of California will take a step toward or away from true liberty. GALA of Roseburg asks you to help us by helping them make the right decision.

Join us at the Douglas County Courthouse in vigil and stand up for the rights of all individuals regardless of their sexual preference.

Ed. note: Jesse Corder is currently co-president of Roseburg's GALA. He's a member and past chair of the Switchboard Committee and a founder of Roseburg's AIDS task force. He serves on MCC Roseburg's board of directors, and he's active in the weekly rap group. Corder also plays an important role in Mixed Company, an on-going fund-raising project.



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