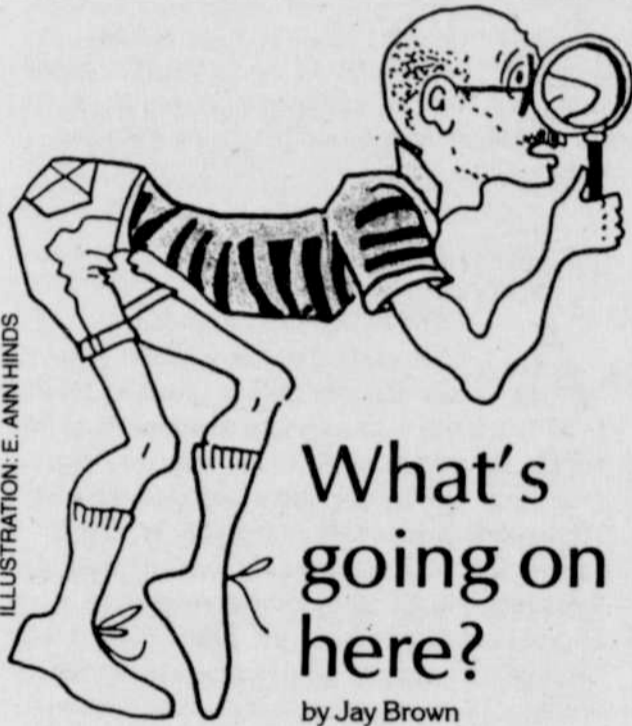


A.V. 14pt.

Sexual politics

Oregon's legislators will consider passage of a bill which adds "sexual orientation" to existing anti-discrimination laws in the Oregon Revised Statutes again this year. Passage of the proposed legislation will provide tenuous security to people disenfranchised under current law as long as the ORS contains articles which define sodomy as criminal activity.

While the ORS contains no prohibitions against sexual activity between consenting adults (except "in, or in view of, a public place" [ORS 163.465]) it does contain statutes (e.g. 163.385, 163.395, and 163.405) which



provide penalties for sodomy; defined as follows: (ORS 163.305[18])

"Deviate sexual intercourse" means sexual conduct between persons consisting of contact between the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another."

A recent example of the bias inherent in defining cunnilingus and fellatio as "deviate" and separate from sexual intercourse is a ruling by the Oregon Court of Appeals. The ruling stated that a person cannot be convicted for compelling other people to have sexual intercourse but can be held criminally responsible for compelling people to engage in deviate acts.

The case involved a Jackson County man who was convicted of rape for forcing two minors to engage in intercourse. He was also convicted of sodomy for forcing them to engage in deviate acts. The appeals court upheld the sodomy convictions because the pertinent laws state that a person is guilty of sodomy for causing other people to do deviate acts. The rape laws contain no such language but say that a person must have sexual intercourse to commit rape. (Curiously, there is no law against rape of males, only of females. See 163.355, 163.365, 163.375.)

Another, also odious, statute frequently used against gay men in particular is:

161.275 Entrapment. (1) The commission of acts which would otherwise constitute an offense is not criminal if the actor engaged in the proscribed conduct because the actor was induced to do so by a law enforcement official, or by a person acting in cooperation with a law enforcement official, for the purpose of obtaining evidence to be used against the actor in a criminal prosecution.

(2) As used in this section, "induced" means that the actor did not contemplate and would not otherwise have engaged in the proscribed conduct. Merely affording the actor an opportunity to commit an offense does not constitute entrapment. [1971 c. 743§35]

Since the US Supreme Court's homophobic ruling upholding Georgia's sodomy statute last summer, the gay/lesbian rights agenda has made repeal of similar laws a priority item. We hope

that Oregonians join the battle and aggressively address the state sanctioned homophobia in the laws of this state.

Jumping in with both feet

A veteran gay rights activist of our acquaintance will file for a seat on a rural school district board of education early next year. His candidacy will focus on the need to better equip children to deal with issues of sexuality.

Our friend is a homeowner and has lived in his district for about ten years. He is a man of integrity and is very much aware of the environment in which he lives. He has been involved in progressive politics since coming out shortly after the Stonewall rebellion in the late 1960s.

Informed sources give our friend just about an even chance of bringing off the election. He's going to need a lot of support to make sure that his campaign is successful and as soon as he has filed for the position he will reveal his identity. •

Neighborhood? What neighborhood?

The following items appeared in the December 5, 1986, issue of Your Columbia County Shopper's News Today (St. Helens, OR) in the order printed here.

There Goes the Neighborhood

Because of its large homosexual population and its proximity to California, Alaska and Idaho, Portland has been selected as the West Coast's first — and the nation's second — alcoholism and drug addiction treatment center exclusively for homosexuals. Located in the former Holbrook School, northwest of Portland, Right Step Recovery Center, owned by Republic Health Corp., has a 21-day, inpatient program based upon the 12 steps initiated by Alcoholics Anonymous.

Residents and property owners in the vicinity probably rate this dubious honor about on par with that of being chosen as an atomic-waste disposal site.

Trojan Reports

The Trojan Nuclear Plant operated at or near full power throughout the week.

A team of nine Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspectors spent two weeks in August performing a Safety System Functional Inspection at Trojan. Trojan was the fourth U.S. nuclear plant to be inspected under this new NRC program.

As a result of the inspection, the NRC found four violations dealt with battery service testing, in-service testing of various valves, updating of plant procedures, and lack of documentation relating to a battery test conducted in 1985. None of the problems posed a threat to public health or safety.

St. Helens is about 20 mile south of the Trojan plant. •

Coors boycott breached

Despite efforts to overcome a decade of organized boycotting, Coors Beer is still unable to capture a market for its product among people of color, gays and lesbians and workers. The boycott, based on the Coors' family's involvement with rightwing causes and the company's discriminatory practices, continues to gain widespread support, according to the *Gay Community News*.

Gay labor activist Howard Wallace of the San Francisco Coors Boycott Committee, speaking at a community organizing forum in Boston recently, said that Coors has been forced to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in donations and advertising to improve its image with people of color and lesbians and gays but has

seen steadily declining sales in the western United States. (Coors, originally marketed only in the west, went nationwide about two years ago.)

Not long ago, Coors attempted to buy the good graces of the San Francisco gay and lesbian community by giving a substantial amount of money to San Francisco's oldest gay business organization. The organization refused to accept Coors' offer citing Coors' history of discrimination against lesbians and gays.

Coors isn't calling it quits, though, and it

looks like their money is acceptable to at least one business aggressively aimed at a gay audience. A full page advertisement, worth \$500, appears on page 14 of the December, 1986 (Vol. 1, No. 9) *Guide Magazine* (Seattle). *Guide Magazine*, former *Cite Guide*, which has editions in six metropolitan areas with large gay populations, is headquartered in Denver, Colorado.

The Adolph Coors Brewery is located in Golden, Colorado. •

A place for us

In cities with large gay and lesbian populations all across the country one is apt to find a building which functions as a community center; a place where our community can always feel welcome. In Portland, the building located on the southeast corner of NE 24th and Broadway has been the site of hundreds of meetings, gatherings and rendezvous during the past ten years.

The building is the home of Metropolitan Community Church, Portland. In the next nine months the membership of MCC, Portland must raise \$50,000 to make the final balloon payment on its mortgage (\$30,000) and to make much needed repairs and renovations. Repairs are sorely needed on the roof and in the lavatories. The kitchen needs upgrading to handle increased demand on the Church's feeding program. The building, at present, is not fully wheelchair accessible.

Metropolitan Community Church, founded about eighteen years ago in Southern California

by the Rev. Troy Perry, has maintained a congregation in Portland for about thirteen years. The current congregation is the third and longest lived; it was chartered eleven years ago and has been at its present site since 1976.

A religious body evolving from the gay and lesbian community has little chance of survival unless it espouses democratic principles. MCC congregations are democratic and all members are ministers of the Gospel. "The only thing we have in common is our belief in Jesus Christ as the Messiah," says Rev. Gary Wilson, Pastor, MCC, Portland. "We make no moral judgments. Our beliefs are a matter of individual conscience."

The congregation is forging something different. They open their church to all who need spiritual support. "We are a way station, a part of the process that makes people whole."

MCC, Portland will accept donations in the form of cash, pledges and labor and materials. MCC is a place for all of us, so let's all help pay for it. MCC Balloon Payment Fund, 1644 NE 24th Ave., Portland, OR 97232. Phone (503) 281-8868. •

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