

Pride, civil rights, take work

A handful of tight-assed homophobes is holding HB-2325 hostage. Do we give up?

BY BILLY RUSSO

As we come together this month to celebrate the anniversary of the Stonewall demonstrations, we have our own Stonewall abuilding. It's not police harassment at our favorite watering hole. Our Stonewall is HB-2325, the civil rights bill.

Presently, a handful of legislators are holding our bill hostage. Some have been

groups of tight-assed homophobes. Others are homophobes, themselves.

I recently spent a day in Portland and the following day in Eugene. The prevailing rumor is that the gay rights bill is dead. Because we weren't able to get it passed without a fight, many people just want to give up. Well, Mrs. Russo's son, Billy, is here to tell you that the fight ain't over 'til it's over.

We've got it a lot easier than those drag queens and bull dykes had it in New York almost two decades ago. We don't have to barricade ourselves in a bar or riot in the streets. All we have to do is take a few minutes to write, call or telegram our representative and urge him or her to support HB-2325.

Here in Douglas County we've been contacting our representatives regularly. We're not going away, and we're letting them know that. Other rural communities like Bend and Klamath Falls are also keeping the pressure on.

If you are too closeted to sign your name, then don't. Say that you're closeted, but remind your legislator that you vote.

If you're not a letter writer, then simply drop one of our campaign buttons in an envelope and mail that. Your representative will get the message. Phone calls and telegrams can be spendy, but they have tremendous impact. Pick up the phone. Do it now!



The Roseburg Report

bullied by other representatives. Some are being bullied by small, well-organized

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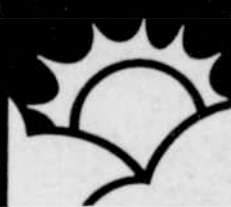
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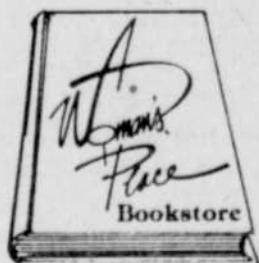
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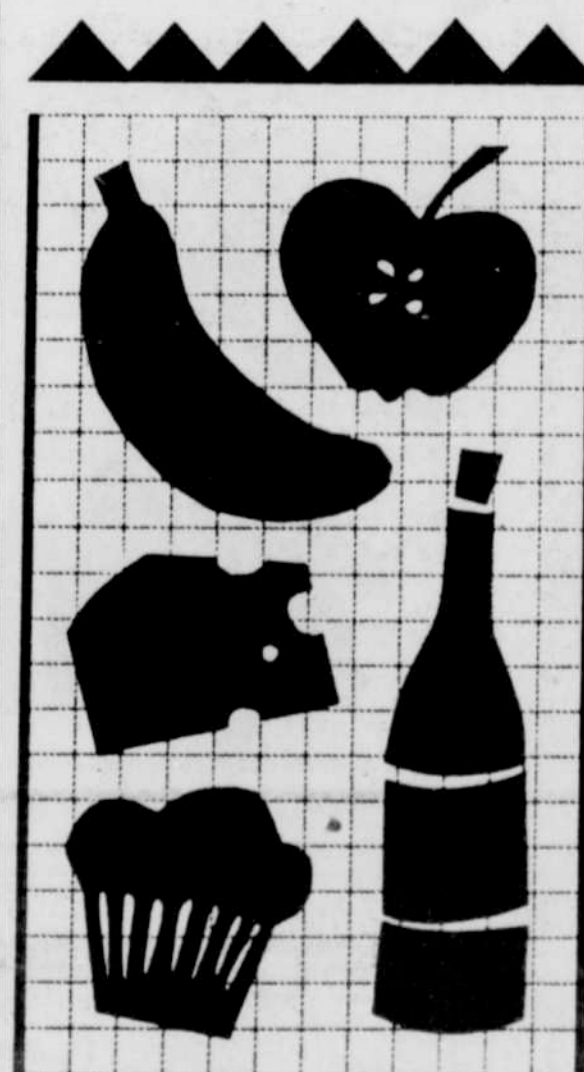
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