

Just news

Violence on Stark Street

Anti-gay violence is back for the summer. An attack and robbery outside the bars serves as warning.

B Y W C M c R A E

An attack and robbery of three gay men last month should "serve as a warning to others," and alert the community to a "lack of police response to anti-gay violence," according to one of the victims of the attack.

After bar closing early Saturday morning, July 18, Jim Magin and two friends had just left Boxx's on Stark Street and were crossing 12th Avenue when, according to Magin, they "were suddenly surrounded by three people — two black men and a black woman — who began to grope us while they talked to us loudly. I felt a hand in my pocket. I grabbed at one of the strangers and demanded my wallet back." The stranger drew a knife, stabbed Magin several times, then jerked a gold chain off Magin's wrist. One of Magin's companions was also stabbed and robbed. Another man who came to their aid was also attacked.

By this time, according to Magin, the streets were filled with people exiting the bars, and Magin and several other men pursued the two male assailants. One of the wallets was eventually found in the street, absent its cash.

Five police officers arrived. Magin identified the female companion of the assailants, who had not left the scene. However, police did not take her into custody nor take her name. While the police were

questioning Magin and his companions, one of the assailants was sighted down the street. According to Magin, the police made no attempt to apprehend him.

When Magin was taken to the hospital, police told him they would contact him later. However, when two days later there had been no further contact, Magin went to Central Precinct. There he learned that the police had not even filed a report on the incident. He was told, however, that when asked, the officers involved claimed that Magin had been "uncooperative."

"Two of us went to the hospital; I lost two or three pints of blood; they didn't even get the name of the woman involved; and I was 'uncooperative,'" Magin says.

"The police are definitely biased against gay people. If it had been a straight couple, the attackers would have been arrested. As it was, they didn't even bother getting their names," says Magin. "The police have no regard for gay people."

This robbery and attack are very similar to others reported recently. Foot traffic on Stark Street should be wary of groups of strangers. If anti-gay violence and/or police inaction can be documented, authorities can be urged to address the problem, and at the very least, other people can be warned of danger. If readers have been victims of violence or of police inaction, contact Bill McRae at *Just Out*, 236-1252.

Goldschmidt to sign executive order

Oregon becomes the eleventh state to prohibit discrimination against gays in state employment as Neil keeps a campaign promise.

B Y W C M c R A E

Governor Neil Goldschmidt is preparing to sign an executive order to bar discrimination against gays and lesbians in state employ, according to sources in the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Although the ACLU was asked to provide draft language for the order, the scope of the official proclamation, and the date of the governor's signing, are still uncertain.

Candidate Goldschmidt had promised to issue an executive order in response to questionnaires from the Right to Privacy PAC and from *Just Out*. This promise led to key endorsements from gay leaders and from the media in what was seen as a very closely drawn gubernatorial battle. After it became clear that HB 2325, the so-called "gay rights bill," was not going to make it onto the floor of the Oregon House, Goldschmidt directed his legal counsel Cory Streisinger to prepare an executive order banning discrimination by the state on the basis of sexual orientation.

A subcommittee of the ACLU's Lesbian

and Gay Rights Commission used executive orders from four other states to prepare the draft submitted to Goldschmidt. Although it is not known how far-reaching the final executive order will be, ACLU Executive Director Stevie Remington said, "We asked for it all."

Streisinger stressed that the executive order will be issued as soon as it is prepared. "If you know anything about this governor, you know he likes to get things done." However, the signing may be deferred until a suitable public event can be arranged. According to John Baker of the Right to Privacy PAC, "We'd like to bring together people who have worked for gay rights in the past," in order to honor their contributions.

Come out, come out, whoever you are. National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. October 11, 1987.

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