

Voices in the wilderness

There is no question but that the primary purpose of a religious invocation is religious. The practice of including a religious invocation in a graduation ceremony conveys a message of endorsement of the particular creed represented in the invocation, and of religion in general."

Justice Norman Elkington; California Court of Appeals

The three member panel ruled that prayers cannot be included in high school graduation ceremonies. (GALA Review, September 1987)

"In God's eyes, I am not guilty. God made me a lesbian."

United Methodist Minister Rose Mary Denman.

Denman was tried by a jury of her peers after she fell in love with the divorced wife of another minister. (AP, 8/24/87)

"They came into the ghettos to fight the war on poverty and then left, leaving us with nothing. They came in to fight the war on drugs and then left, leaving us with nothing. Now they come in to fight the war on AIDS."

Don Edwards, National AIDS Network, speaking at the CDC-sponsored conference "AIDS in Minority Populations in the U.S." (Gay Community News, 8/16-22/87)

Barbara and Frank Roberts receive ACLU award

The Honorable Barbara Roberts, Oregon Secretary of State, and the Honorable Frank Roberts, Oregon State Senator, have been tapped to receive the E.B. MacNaughton Civil Liberties Award given by the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Oregon. The MacNaughton Award was established to recognize unique and outstanding individual contributions to the cause of civil liberties. During their years of public service, Barbara and Frank Roberts have vigorously supported civil rights for lesbians and gay men.

The MacNaughton Awards will be presented at the ACLU Foundation's annual fund raising event on September 26. Also on the agenda for the evening will be an appearance by comedian/social commentator, Mort Sahl. Tickets for the event are \$40 per person with all proceeds benefitting the ACLU Foundation of Oregon. The benefit will be held in the Sunken Ballroom of the Masonic Temple (922 SW Main, Portland) and begins with a no-host reception at 7 p.m. Mort Sahl's appearance is scheduled for 8 p.m. The E.B. MacNaughton Award will be presented to Barbara and Frank Roberts at 9 p.m.

Gays and lesbians should be present in droves at this event. The ACLU has worked long and



ILLUSTRATION: E. ANN HINDS

B Y J A Y B R O W N

hard for decades in pursuit of civil liberties denied to us and will continue to do so. Civil liberties for lesbians and gays remain a priority item for the ACLU of Oregon. Civil liberties for gays and lesbians continue, also, as a priority in the agenda of Barbara and Frank Roberts.

Members and friends of the lesbian and gay community are encouraged to join the ACLU in honoring Barbara and Frank Roberts and to support the work of the ACLU of Oregon.

For ticket information, call 227-3186.

Jobs, self-respect, and the Department of Defense

The Department of Defense's Manual of Personnel Security Investigations contains the following list of questions the DOD is permitted to ask lesbians and gays seeking employment.

1. What period in your life have you engaged in deviant activities?
2. How often do you engage in deviant activities?
3. When was the most recent time you engaged in deviant activity?
4. What type of individual do you choose to participate in deviant activity?
5. Are you and your coparticipant in deviant activity open or secretive regarding your deviant activity?
6. What are the age group of your coparticipants in deviant activity?
7. Do you maintain a single or a small number of lasting relationships?
8. Do you have numerous transient and temporary liaisons with a variety of individuals through chance meetings in bars or other public places?
9. In what types of places do you meet deviant partners?
10. Where do you engage in deviant activities?

11. Are your family, friends and professional associates aware of your deviant activity?
12. Do you know if your partners have disclosed their deviant activities to friends, family, associates and the like?

So what? There is very little in the way of Department of Defense (DOD) employment in Oregon, at least on the surface; however, Oregon officials are falling all over themselves jockeying for a shot at the "super collider" project. The project, however innocently it's packaged, is just another DOD funded research vehicle.

Gays and lesbians are being screwed in several ways by the DOD. We pay for it like everyone else — actually we pay more for it because of discriminatory tax rules. But what we are really paying for is to support Department of Defense discriminatory employment practices and, thereby reinforcing our federal status as second class citizens.

Gay and lesbian activists in San Francisco have made DOD unfair employment practices their issue in a protracted controversy over home-porting of the *USS Missouri*. A statement issued by the 850 members of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club accuses proponents of the Missouri home-berthing of suggesting that "the alleged new jobs the project will bring to the City are more important than lesbian/gay rights and claim the Navy can't change its policies."

Jobs or self-respect. Jobs and self-respect. That's the bottom line.

Information, strategy on right-wing initiative

A meeting has been called to explore ways of combating the right-wing initiative to repeal the Portland City Ordinance which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation of city employees. There will be a discussion of possible avenues the gay and lesbian community can take in reaction to the initiative. The meeting will be facilitated by the ACLU Commission on Gay and Lesbian Rights and will be held in Room C, Portland Building (1120 SW 5th), on Wednesday, September 16, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The ACLU Commission on Gay and Lesbian Rights has been working hard during the past year garnering support from legislators and monitoring the political pulse. The commission will be able to provide information about the ordinance and insight into how the lesbian and gay community might react to the initiative.

If the backers of the initiative are successful in their quest for 23,000 signatures many gays and lesbians are going to have to make some tough choices — choices many of us haven't made for years — choices some of us have never had to make. But for right now, the choice must be to familiarize oneself with the ordinance — what it does and doesn't do.

The Drew Davis/Joe Lutz cabal is already spreading lies and hate with its insidious mani-

pulation of the uninformed and ignorant. Lutz is reported to have targeted Secretary of State Barbara Roberts as the victim of his next nefarious foray into statewide politics.

Those people are geared up — and they have money behind them. Those people also get much more coverage in the mainstream media. Even when the story is about us, they become part of the story.

So, make the choice to attend the ACLU Commission meeting. If only for the information. You won't regret it.

Coalition produces enlightened compromise

State crime legislation which would protect victims of harassment or violence based on race, color, sex, ethnic background, nationality, religious belief, age, sexual orientation, or disability passed both houses of the Maine State Legislature after all protected categories were stripped from the bill. The bill was introduced at the urging of a coalition organized by the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) which included black, Asian, Native American, women's and other groups, according to the National Gay Task Force's Anti-Violence Project Update.

The coalition and the bill's sponsors agreed that all would oppose deletion of any single class in the original bill. Opposition to "sexual orientation" surfaced in a House floor vote and the bill failed. The compromise bill protects any victim of harassment or violence, but it does not permit judges to take into account the biased nature of a crime in sentencing.

Provisions retained in the bill include a general civil rights statute which forbids interference in the constitutional or statutory rights of others, and it enables victims of harassment or violence to obtain a temporary restraining order against assailants.

For more information about the bill and MLGPA's organizer Dale McCormick, write to Dale at the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, Box 108, Yarmouth, ME 04096.

AIDS in prime-time

In hour long documentary, *AIDS — Close to Home*, part of a statewide effort to provide information about AIDS by KGW-TV, will be broadcast on September 9, at 10 p.m. The documentary, according to producer Lori Van Kirk, will focus on "a side of AIDS viewers haven't seen before."

The program documents, among other things, life and death at Juniper House, a hospice which opened in May of this year. Juniper House provides supportive care for terminally ill persons with AIDS; two paid staff members and about a dozen volunteers provide 24-hour support.

The documentary goes along on a visit to a dentist by one of the residents at Juniper House and when another succumbs to the illness his memorial service is documented.

"AIDS — Close to Home is not all negative," said Van Kirk. "People going through this nightmare can teach us a lot about life, death and love."

The program will discuss safe sex practices; it will also show how the disease unites and separates, inspires love and hate among those who live with it. It visits a group of former prostitutes who contemplate being tested for antibodies and who worry about the wives of customers possibly infected by their uncaring husbands.

The message of *AIDS — Close to Home* is that AIDS affects people from all walks of life, people who never thought they would be affected by the disease but must now reckon with the idea of death.

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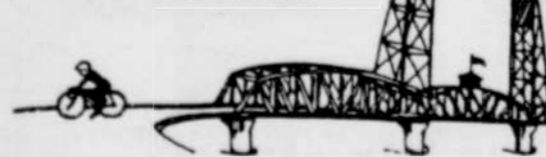
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