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Voices in the wilderness

"In three different surveys of the gay population in San Francisco, the rate of new AIDS infection was shown to be essentially zero. That is remarkable. The rest of the world is asking us how we did it. It was done with these educational materials."

— Dr. David Werdegard, director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, defended and praised sexually explicit educational materials distributed by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Harvey Milk Club after the state Republican Party called for criminal prosecution of the two organizations for "distributing obscene material." (New York Native, 11/9/87)

"All we have at hand is education. We do not have time to get into moralistic, philosophical, or academic debates."

— Senator Lowell Weicker (R-CT) appealed to the Senate to reject an amendment by Jesse Helms to an appropriations bill which prohibits federal funds being given for any AIDS education, information, or prevention materials which "promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual sexual activities." Sen. Weicker and Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) cast the only votes against the Helms amendment. (New York Native, 11/9/87)

"AIDS kills Republicans, too! There are millions of gay men, their friends and families who are beginning to question their support of a party that doesn't care. The Republican Party must choose: does it want GOP to stand for Grand Old Party or Guardians of Plague?"

— An anonymous Republican (The Gay News-Telegraph, October 1987)

"Stop Naito. Stoops for Mayor."

— Graffiti on a wall near NW Third and Everett.

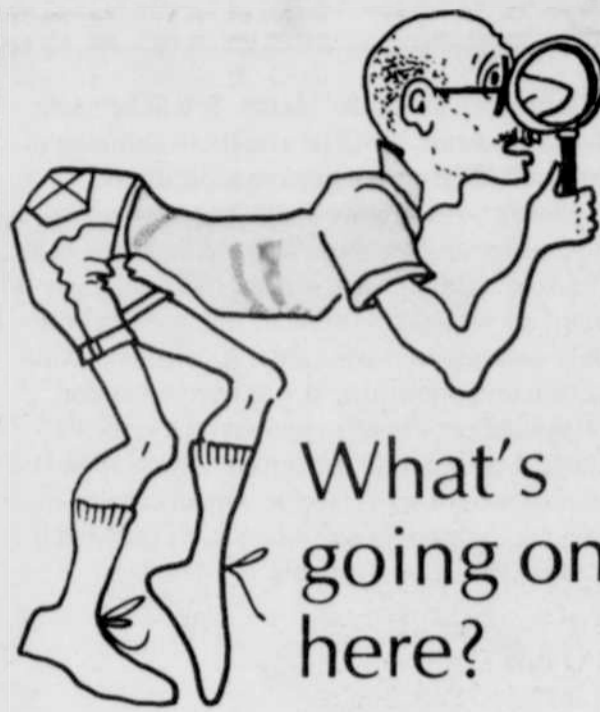
Making it

The Lucille Hart Dinner was quite a do this year—it could even be called historic. For the first time, ever, a governor formally addressed a gay political gathering of this caliber; television news cameras were allowed to tape the program; organized anti-gay demonstrators, many accompanied by children, picketed the function.

Mayor Bud Clark, in his welcoming remarks, said, "Our best resource is ourselves. It is the courage to stand up and be counted that makes Oregon a special place." Mayor Clark also gave credit to the Portland City Council for "turning this thing around."

The audience, however, was not quite so willing to give credit where it is due. As the introduction of political guests progressed, former City Commissioner Margaret Strachan, clearly a crowd favorite, was greeted with a rousing standing ovation. Keeston Lowery then introduced City Commissioner Earl Blumenauer, citing his skill at maneuvering new City personnel and neighborhood association rules which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation to acceptance by the City Council. If I may speculate here, based on the response of the crowd, I'd guess that those new rules are small potatoes to the people attending the Lucille Hart Dinner.

In all, more than forty officials and candidates (mostly Democrats) were introduced; they included two congressmen, Peter DeFazio (4th District) and Les AuCoin (1st District) who were also on the program. Secretary of State Barbara Roberts and Sen. Frank Roberts, Multnomah County Executive Gladys McCoy and Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury, and Public



B Y J A Y B R O W N

Utility Commissioner Ron Eachus.

Most people who attended the Lucille Hart Dinner live in the Portland metropolitan area. However, people came from as far away as Klamath Falls, Wolf Creek and Roseburg. Not as many lesbians attended as were there last year; they were in the vicinity, though—comedian Kate Clinton was playing to a sold-out house just up the street at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. If the picketing homophobes had been on the ball they could have spread themselves out a little and been objectionable to twice as many lesbians and gays.

Governor Neil Goldschmidt delivered the formal address of the evening. "We know there is a right to privacy," he said. "It is my right to be left alone in private conduct... The government is ourselves... This administration will not keep anyone out."

The governor reminded us of the dangers of unbridled bigotry by quoting Martin Niemöller: "In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."

Governor Goldschmidt concluded by telling the largest political gathering of gays and lesbians in the history of this state to "link your interests to the wider interests."

PANIC in Beaverton

A telephone call brought the disturbing news that a LaRouche-sponsored initiative petition was spotted at the Beaverton post office. According to our caller, the petitioner displayed a sign which said "Quarantine people with AIDS, mosquitoes just won't wear condoms." The sign was emblazoned with a logo identifying a group called PANIC. (Any information on PANIC will be appreciated.)

No initiative petition fitting the above description has been registered with the Secretary of State, according to a spokesperson with the Elections Division. Statewide petitions not registered with the Secretary of State are invalid and will not appear on the elections ballots.

Benefit who?

Persons who attended the evening with Randy Shilts, author of *And the Band Played On*, and who expect to itemize the ticket price on their tax forms should check with Powell's Books to discern the deductible amount. The evening was billed as a benefit for the Oregon AIDS Task Force, but according to our sources, the real beneficiary for the event is Powell's Books.

Advertisements for the event, which cost \$7.50 per ticket, did not specify that only a portion of the proceeds would benefit the Oregon AIDS Task Force. About 350 or 400 persons attended. More than 50 copies of Shilts' book, at \$24.95, were sold at the event.

Lies and consequences

A couple of weeks ago I received a new novel from Grove Press; it could not have come at a more appropriate time. In George Whitmore's *Nebraska*, things happen to Craig McMullen that aren't supposed to happen to young boys in 1950s Nebraska, or anywhere else, for that matter.

Sent out to buy bread, Craig is hit by a truck and loses a leg. His father has disappeared, his mother has palmed him off on her parents. Craig's sister tells him, "Be prepared to die." Then one day his Uncle Wayne comes back from the navy, larger than life and with an eye for the future.

But a casual encounter and a childish lie all but destroy Uncle Wayne and Craig's entire family.

"It isn't right."
"Sure it is."
"Not for a Baptist."
"Didn't you do it, Wesley? Didn't you do it once with me?"
"Once I did it with you."
"Well, I bet other boys do it in the Scouts."
"I bet they don't!"
"I bet they do."
Wesley must have known that was true for he could only repeat *It isn't right*.

"Sure it is."
"No it isn't."
Then I was inspired to say, "They even do it in the navy. My Uncle Wayne told me. You don't think they have girls on ships, do you? They have to get rid of their jizz on ships too. If they don't it impairs performance." I was talking so fast I was almost out of breath. I wanted to roll over on top of Wesley. "Let me do it to you first then," I said. "If you don't like it, well you don't have to do it to me."

"I don't believe that ship stuff," Wesley said.
"My Uncle Wayne told me, Wesley. He even showed me how."
"Liar."
"He did. Lots and lots of times."
"Liar."
"He showed me the best way. Wanna see?"
"You're lying and they don't do that in Scouts either."

Craig later has a crisis of conscience. "I felt ashamed for telling those lies about Uncle Wayne." Day after day Craig lives with what his lie reaps.



Lesbians lead, voters approve gay rights

An ordinance which adds sexual orientation to existing anti-discrimination law in Boulder, Colorado, was narrowly approved by votes in a referendum election on November 3.

According to a story in the *Washington Blade*, organizers of the campaign in support of the ordinance consisted almost solely of lesbians. Boulder's gay men are either involved in AIDS service programs or are not politically active, the story said.

Supporters of the ordinance raised and spent \$6,000 on the campaign. Organizers obtained the names of 300 prominent Boulder residents, including six members of the city council, to appear in newspaper ads and campaign literature supporting the ordinance. Boulder is the site of a campus of the University of Colorado and has a population of 90,000.

Voters repealed a similar ordinance in 1974, after the city council had approved it a few months earlier. Opposition to the recently approved ordinance was led by a Catholic activist who based his opposition on moral grounds. Pro-ordinance organizers noted that other churches in the city did not join the opposition.