

Voices in the wilderness

"Marcos was the first male chauvinist to underestimate me. He was not the last to pay for that mistake."
— Corazon Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines (Vanity Fair, February 1988)

"The real special interests in this country are not the issue oriented PACS, but the business PACs who do actually buy support for policies that financially benefit the wealthy elite of this country."
— John Kuster, Democratic Party chairman from Jefferson County, Iowa (Christian Science Monitor, Jan. 19, 1988)

"Meese Resigns; Says Failure to Pass Urine Test 'Hampers' His Ability to Serve as Chief U.S. Law Officer."
— Part of an editorial headlined "The Best of 1988 to You" (The Nation, Jan. 9, 1988)

"The mere fact of school sponsorship does not, as the court suggests, license such thought control in the high school, whether through school suppression of disfavored viewpoints or through official assessment of topic sensitivity."
— Justice William J. Brennan Jr., dissenting from the Supreme Court's 5-3 ruling on January 13, 1988, that upheld a Missouri high school principal's censorship of articles on teen-age pregnancy and the impact of divorce on students at the school

Gay and lesbian vote 1988

Paul Simon is one of the co-sponsors of the federal gay rights bill called the Civil Rights Amendment Act of 1987 (S 464/HR709) and would issue a presidential executive order



BY JAY BROWN

banning sexual orientation discrimination in government employment (except for the military and security agencies), according to a questionnaire he returned to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Simon's name will appear on the primary ballot in Oregon.

Michael Dukakis has been the center of controversy among lesbians and gays in his home state of Massachusetts. Dukakis approved the actions of a state agency that pulled two boys from a previously approved gay couple's foster home. Dukakis told Mother Jones magazine (December 1987) that he still believes "non-traditional" families should be utilized only as a last resort, if at all. In his answer to NGLTF's questionnaire, Dukakis supports passage of gay and lesbian civil rights protections but would not issue an executive order. Dukakis is a Democratic Party candidate in the Oregon primary.

Jesse Jackson named civil rights activist Randy Miller to staff the lesbian/gay desk in his campaign for the presidency. Jackson was the

only national politician to address the rally at the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Jackson's name will appear on the Oregon Democratic Party primary ballot.

Lyndon LaRouche's name will appear on the Democratic Party primary ballot. Followers of LaRouche gained enough signatures in each of Oregon's five congressional districts to enter his name in the primary. Supporters of the LaRouche agenda have also been successful in putting on the ballot in California a duplicate of the defeated 1984 ballot measure that mandates quarantine of people who test positive for HIV antibodies.

Deviate sexual intercourse

I get really pissed at the term "deviate sexual intercourse." It's like waving a cape at a charging bull.

Last week one of our faithful readers called to alert us to an initiative petition being circulated by Congressman Denny Smith. The initiative, titled "Requires full sentences without parole, probation for certain repeat felonies," amends criminal-sentencing laws. Listed in the initiative are "murder; and first degree manslaughter, assault, kidnapping, rape, sodomy. . . ."

The initiative doesn't specifically say "deviate sexual intercourse," but a quick peek at one of the statutes to be amended (ORS 163.405) reveals the following: "A person who engages in deviate sexual intercourse with another person or causes another to engage in deviate sexual intercourse . . ." (emphasis added). There are several other criminal penalties for "deviate sexual intercourse" of various degrees in the Oregon Revised Statutes.

My objection is, of course, "Deviate from what?"

Comparing these statutes with those regarding rape indicates an unmistakable bias, e.g., "A male who has sexual intercourse with a female commits the crime of rape in the second degree . . ." (see ORS 163.365, et. al). The sodomy statutes also contain the phrase "or causes another to engage in," which is missing from the rape statutes and which compounds the anti-gay bias.

As long as the state of Oregon sanctions anti-gay bias in its criminal statutes, gays and lesbians will have little chance of changing homophobic attitudes. The right-wing bigots will always have those biased laws to point to, unless we do something about it.

Clearing the Wasteland

That are the chances of seeing a television production focusing on the gay community's response to AIDS — politically, socially and through its own extensive educational campaigns?

What is the probability of the gay community's own experts appearing on the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour when gay-related issues are being discussed?

In an effort to improve public television's often spotty coverage of the lesbian and gay community, representatives of the New York-based Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Inc. (GLAAD) met on January 5 with executives at WNET/Channel 13, the largest — and richest — station in the Public Broadcasting System.

GLAAD protested the system's failure to cover gay and lesbian issues in its programming; the "ghettoization" of gay shows during June; the absence of gay-themed drama on PBS's American Playhouse and Great Performances (both of which are produced by

WNET). Last year, William Hoffman, author of *As Is*, claimed that *American Playhouse* turned down his play for fear of offending southern affiliates.

During the meeting, WNET referred to a computer printout listing 33 programs broadcast over the past year that dealt with gay issues. On examination, GLAAD discovered that the list actually covered two years, not one. Moreover, a majority of the programs on WNET's list had AIDS, rather than gays, as the primary focus. "AIDS programming is not the same as gay programming," GLAAD's David Leibhart pointed out.

GLAAD made several suggestions for improved gay and lesbian programming, including coverage of the rising epidemic of anti-gay violence, the gay community's response to AIDS, the increasing number of openly gay and lesbian political candidates and officials, lesbian issues, and profiles of gay organizations.

With people like those in GLAAD keeping tabs on the poor performance of public television we are likely to see some improvement in lesbian- and gay-related programming in the future. And it would be worthwhile for the local community to start shaking up Oregon Public Broadcasting — they don't seem to know the difference between GAY and AIDS either.

Surprise!!

"Naito group seeks alternate site for Baloney Joe's," read the headline in *The Oregonian* on Jan. 25. "Sources familiar with the negotiations said the site was on the east side of the Willamette River," the story went on to say.

And the saga continues with state medical examiners reopening the investigation of confidentiality violations by Dr. Neil Rendleman. The board had previously declared itself satisfied that Rendleman had not fed confidential information from Michael Stoops's medical records to *Willamette Week* editor Mark Zusman. A member of the Burnside Community Projects' board of directors has said that Rendleman offered information from Stoops's medical records to the board member in 1985.

If Zusman and Rendleman were really interested in the welfare of street youth, rather than in protecting their own turf, they would send Kay Durham to the stretch of Southwest 3rd Avenue between Morrison and Taylor streets and watch just who is exploiting whom.

Greed alive and well; gay lib slips

Despite Newsweek's announcement that greed is dead, our data show that it is alive and well," said A. W. Astin, director of the 22nd annual survey of entering college freshmen conducted by the American Council on Education and by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA. The survey indicated that 75 percent of college freshmen feel that accumulation of wealth is an "essential" or "very important" goal, but at the same time, only 39 percent would emphasize developing a meaningful philosophy of life, according to the *New York Times*. The data came from questionnaires completed by 209,627 freshmen at 308 two- and four-year colleges. Twenty years ago, the same survey indicated the reverse: in 1967, 43 percent emphasized affluence, while 83 percent put great emphasis on existential questions.

The survey also showed an increase in liberal attitudes in several areas; a record 52 percent said it was all right for two people who had known each other for a short time to have sexual relations. The liberal attitude toward sexual expression did not extend to same-sex relationships, however: 53 percent of the freshmen (up one percent from 1986) support laws prohibiting homosexual relations. Not surprisingly, the majority of the freshmen (56 percent) identify themselves as politically middle of the road.

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