

Voices in the wilderness

Man is by nature a loving animal, but his nature has been perverted by bigoted, belligerent exploiters. It is essential that gay politics keep busy eroding homophobia, but the most exciting task that remains is how we can persuade the homophobes what a great gay life all men could be romping in.

— James Broughton, "In the Service of Ecstasy: An Interview with James Broughton," in *Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning*, edited by Mark Thompson (St. Martin's Press [Stonewall Inn Editions], 1987)

Iwent out and bought "Highway 61." That was all I played for weeks, looking at the cover with Bob in that satin blue jacket and the Triumph motorcycle shirt.

— Bruce Springsteen, speaking of his early adulation of Bob Dylan at the annual Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame induction dinner held in New York City in January. Dylan was among those inducted. (*Harper's*, April 1988)

AIDS is pretty clearly not running rampant among heterosexuals. Many millions of people have been tested through the military and blood banks. The overwhelming majority of those people are heterosexual and the infection rate is less than one percent.

— Dr. Peter Drotman, medical epidemiologist, AIDS Program, Centers for Disease Control Atlanta. Drotman took issue with the recently published book by Drs. Masters and Johnson on AIDS in the heterosexual population. (*New York Native*, March 21, 1988)

We are by nature a tribal people. Utopia would work best if we organized into small tribes — but not warring tribes. And women would run the tribes. That would be a nice switch. It would be interesting to see if we have learned anything about power other than

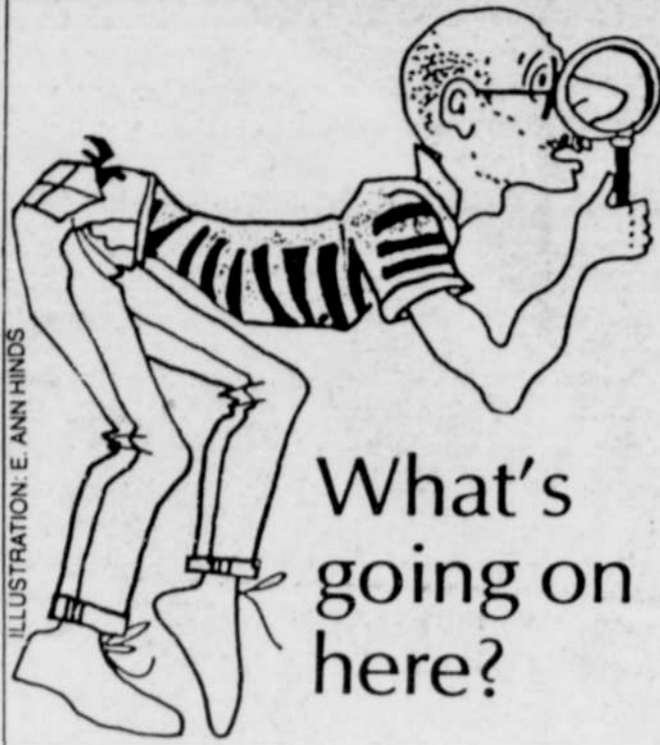


ILLUSTRATION: E. ANN HINDS

to imitate how it has been used and misused in the past. I might not like the answer to that one, but I'd like to give it a try and take my chances.

— Linda Ellerbee, answering the question, "What is Utopia?" (*OMNI*, April 1988)

Running on empty

One politician sure to be snubbed by the Right to Privacy PAC when it passes out campaign contributions and endorsements this month is the incumbent who represents the 3rd Congressional District. Although the congressman claims to be "good on AIDS issues," he has consistently shunned the opportunity to co-sponsor any lesbian and gay civil rights legislation.

The 3rd Congressional District includes all of Multnomah County east of the Willamette River

and part of northern Clackamas County. The district is home to the highest concentration of gays and lesbians in Oregon, and yet the congressman has all but ignored this constituency.

The congressman has met only once with representatives of the lesbian and gay community, and that meeting occurred only because the Rev. Gary Wilson promised to sit in the congressman's Portland office until a meeting was arranged. Last October, the congressman returned to Portland on the weekend of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. When asked by a *Just Out* reporter for his views on the March, the congressman said he was not aware of it.

Isn't it time for the 3rd Congressional District to be represented by a person who listens to the people who vote for him or her? Does the congressman emulate Ernestine's employer and think "I don't have to"? Or is the congressman suffering from internalized homophobia?

Falwell fallout

Will the recent struggle over the Civil Rights Restoration Act bode well or ill for lesbian and gay Oregonians?

Under the direction of sexual terrorist Jerry Falwell, the right wing mounted a massive campaign to attempt to prevent a congressional override of Reagan's veto of the legislation to overturn a Supreme Court decision that drastically limited federal protections against discrimination by race, sex, age or physical disability. Senators and representatives were besieged by thousands of telephone calls from Falwell dupes who parroted the lies that churches would be forced to hire "homosexual drug addicts with AIDS" as day-care workers. (Ironically, churches are protected from the act: As long as religious organizations do not accept public funds, they may discriminate against whomever or whatever.)

Falwell's "true believers" did not tell their congresspersons or senators to vote against the act because it bans discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1972, which, by the way, contains no protections for gays, lesbians, transvestites or persons with AIDS. They did not demand votes against the act because there will always be bigots who want public money.

Organized under the name Oregon Citizens Alliance and financed by the remains of Joe Lutz's unsuccessful campaign to unseat Senator Bob Packwood, "true believers" in Oregon are primed to use the same lies to sell their bigotry as well. We can expect a barrage of anti-gay, anti-lesbian (they'll use "homosexual") and AIDS propaganda if their initiative to revoke Executive Order 87-20 makes it to the streets.

The devil made me do it

Jim Bakker, Jimmy Swaggart. And among the lesser known, Oregon's own (well, almost) Joe Lutz.

Yes, Joe Lutz. His wife and kids stayed in Oregon in recent months while Lutz drummed up "business" in Southern California and "looked at the prospect of marrying another woman." (Didn't Swaggart also say he was just looking?)

And, like Swaggart, Lutz 'fessed up (with a photo opportunity), said he was sorry and please send money.

Now that greed is a virtue, are hypocrites positive role models?

Following right along

The most disgusting bit of political news in a very bad year is the candidacy of Drew Davis for a seat on the Lake Oswego School Board. The topper is Davis's statement to the *Lake Oswego Review* that religion has no place in his political agenda.

"I could be classified as a conservative politician, but I shouldn't be considered a right-wing, radical, weirdo Christian," Davis said. "I am a Christian, but that has nothing to do

with my points of view as a politician."

Any conscious person in Portland knows that Davis has kept his political career alive in recent years by gay-bashing. Could there be two Drew Davises who look and sound exactly alike? Is there a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde living in Lake Oswego? Or is this just more political expediency?

Other states of mind

Lest anyone suffers from the delusion that Oregon has a monopoly on the ignorant and bigoted, here is a gem from the folks who gave my native state a bad name. The Maricopa County (Arizona) Republican Committee and the Arizona State Republican Committee adopted the following plan for their party platform:

"WHEREAS, AIDS a public health threat of epidemic proportions, has its roots in homosexual behavior;

WHEREAS, homosexual behavior is in opposition to traditional family values and breaks down the moral fiber of our society through weakening of the family unit;

WHEREAS, homosexual behavior is prohibited by law in A.R.S. 13-1411 "Crime Against Nature";

WHEREAS, the homosexual community is actively working to establish legal minority status for persons who engage in and practice homosexual acts;

RESOLVED, the Maricopa County Republican Committee [Arizona State Republican Committee] opposes the formation and/or continuance of any club or auxiliary which bears the name "Republican," which has homosexual behavior as its common bond;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Maricopa County Republican Committee opposes the agenda of the homosexual community which seeks legal minority status on the basis of sexual preference."

Tit bits

Persons still pissed at *Time* and *Newsweek* for their lack of coverage of the March on Washington may take advantage of a simple retaliatory tactic initiated by gays and lesbians from Boston. They are urging interested individuals to return the postage-paid "blow in" subscription cards to the publications with appropriate comments. The magazines pay first-class postage plus a handling fee for each card returned. One need not purchase either magazine, as the cards are inserted in every issue and fall out of newsstand copies.

An item in *Transformation Times* (February 1988) announcing a candlemas sabbat included the following limitations on participants: "Be white, non-homosexual or drug user." (Howzzat, again?)

The Dutch parliament recently informed the United States that Dutch police will no longer assist U.S. military police in investigations of alleged homosexuality among U.S. military personnel stationed in The Netherlands.

There are no anti-gay laws in The Netherlands. "Holland has a clear point of view: it is allowed," said Jan van Houwelingen, secretary of defense of The Netherlands, according to *Bravo! San Diego*.

Attorney Kathleen Bogan wrote with concerns that some readers may misinterpret my rap objecting to the term "deviate sexual intercourse" in February's issue. Please be assured that there are no state controls in Oregon on sexual expression between consenting adults in private, except when money is exchanged.

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