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## Just news

### ACLU opposes anti-gay measure

*The proposed initiative would not only repeal the executive order, but would prohibit any state official from forbidding discrimination based on sexual orientation*

BY STEVIE REMINGTON

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon has launched a two-pronged attack on the proposed ballot measure to revoke Governor Goldschmidt's order prohibiting employees of the executive branch from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation in employment or provision of services.

In separate letters filed with the secretary of state the ACLU argues: (1) that the initiative may not even be placed on the ballot because it violates the Oregon Constitution's provisions separating the powers of the executive branch from the legislative branch, and (2) that the ballot title prepared by the attorney general is inadequate in that it does not convey to voters a significant consequence of passage of the measure.

The filing of the letters at this time lays the groundwork enabling ACLU to seek Oregon Supreme Court rulings on these issues. If the court agrees with ACLU's first argument, we would be spared the necessity of mounting a costly statewide campaign to persuade Oregonians to vote "no" on the measure.

The governor signed the executive order on October 15, 1987, after soliciting suggestions from the ACLU's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Rights (some of which were rejected). The initiative to revoke the order was filed February 22, 1988, by representatives of a conservative group, formed by evangelical minister Joe Lutz, that opposes civil rights protection for gay men and lesbians.

The proposed initiative would not only repeal

the executive order, but would *prohibit* any state official from forbidding discrimination based on sexual orientation. The double negative adds further confusion in their efforts to promote misunderstanding regarding the order.

Using disinformation and distortion to advance their cause of repression, supporters of the initiative say they are seeking to overturn "special rights" for homosexuals (which the order does *not* grant).

They also suggest that under the order, an agency head could not discipline an employee whose sexual orientation adversely affects his or her job performance. Not only is the statement that the order would prevent such discipline plainly false, the initiative sponsors admit they know of no cases where a state employee's sexual orientation has interfered with his or her work.

When the governor signed the order, he did not intend for it to provide "special rights" or "privileges," nor did he intend it to be a token gesture. All agency heads are to report efforts they have made to ensure compliance with the order, and to state what they have done to educate the personnel in their agencies and the public they serve regarding exactly what the order requires.

The ACLU Commission on Gay and Lesbian Rights calls upon all those who care about this issue to educate their friends, neighbors and co-workers about these facts.

Stevie Remington is executive director of the Oregon Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

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### Right to Privacy PAC announces early endorsements, immediate goals

Shirley Gold, Beverly Stein and Mayor Bud Clark have received early endorsements for the May 17 primary from the Right to Privacy Political Action Committee, according to John Baker, chair of the gay and lesbian political organization. Gold is running for the state Senate in District 7; Stein is running for the state House in District 14; Clark is running for re-election.

At a board of directors meeting in Eugene in early March, Right to Privacy adopted goals for immediate action, including defeat of the anti-gay initiative to revoke Executive Order 87-20, passage of a lesbian and gay civil rights bill in the 1989 legislative session, and enactment of an ordinance banning discrimination against gays and lesbians in employment, housing and public accommodations in the city of Portland.

At its formation about 10 years ago, Right to Privacy adopted conditions that candidates

must meet in order to receive endorsements, which include support for gay and lesbian rights, support for an equal rights amendment and support for reproductive rights; it recently added flexibility on AIDS issues insofar as they benefit the gay and lesbian community.

On April 14, Right to Privacy will announce endorsements and disbursements of contributions to other candidates statewide. Right to Privacy expects to disburse more than \$20,000 in campaign contributions at that time.

### Eugene to celebrate Pride Week

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of the University of Oregon will sponsor Gay Pride Week celebrations in Eugene from Saturday, April 23, to Saturday, April 30.

Many of the events are free, and prices are low for the others. Security will be provided by the women of Amazon Kung Fu. All events are wheelchair accessible and smoke-free, and childcare will be provided for each event, with the exception of the Monday night banquet, which lacks appropriate space.

American Sign Language interpretation is being arranged, but has not been confirmed. Volunteers are needed for childcare, taking tickets, putting up posters and a wide variety of other tasks; call GALA at 686-3360, between 9 am and 5 pm weekdays.

Tickets are available at Mother Kali's Bookstore and at the EMU main desk on the UO campus. In addition to individual event tickets, a Pride Week season pass is available for \$22 — the cost of combined events, with one free Pride Week poster.

For schedule information, see Out About Town.

