

Senate actions bash gays

Two recent actions by the United States Senate affirmed once again that an overwhelming majority of senators are anti-gay.

An amendment to a bill appropriating \$1.244 billion for AIDS research, care and education would forbid use of federal funds "in materials, curriculums, or programs that promote or encourage homosexuality, or to use words stating that homosexuality is 'normal,' 'natural,' or 'healthy.'" The amendment was introduced by Gordon Humphrey (R-N.H.) after several attempts by Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) to attach anti-gay and anti-AIDS amendments to the bill had been defeated. Senators voted 82-15 against a motion to table the Humphrey amendment.

Oregon Sens. Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood voted with the majority. In October 1987, both senators voted in favor of the notorious Helms amendment.

Sen. Hatfield voted for and Sen. Packwood voted against an amendment to a District of Columbia appropriations bill that exempts religious educational institutions from complying with the Washington, D.C., gay rights law. The amendment undermines a recent legal decision requiring Georgetown University (Roman Catholic) to grant equal access to facilities and funds to its gay and lesbian student groups. (The District of Columbia is a federal territory and all laws, regulations and policies of the District are subject to review and reversal by the U.S. Congress.)

The amendment was introduced by Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.) and passed by a vote of 58-33.

Marines declare war on queers

In an ongoing investigation into lesbian activity, two female Marines stationed at Parris Island Training Center in South Carolina have been sentenced to one year in prison and



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B Y J A Y B R O W N

dishonorably discharged after court-martial convictions of sodomy and "indecent acts." Six other women have been discharged or are awaiting findings on their cases. As many as 30 women may face disciplinary action due to the investigation, according to the *Washington Blade*.

The investigation was prompted by a two-year-old report by the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service that called homosexuality a major problem in the military.

On the West Coast, four male Marines stationed at Camp Pendleton were discharged and as many as 25 others are under investigation after Oceanside, California, police raided the home of a local resident and discovered videos and still photographs depicting Marines posing nude and performing sex acts in uniform. The discharged Marines were convicted of "lewd

and lascivious conduct for compensation," according to the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The man in whose home the sexually explicit materials were found was charged with running a house of prostitution.

Lesbian appointed to Democratic National Committee

Michael Dukakis, the Democratic presidential nominee, has named lesbian activist Jean O'Leary as an at-large member of the Democratic National Committee. O'Leary's appointment marks the first time an openly lesbian has been named to the governing body of the National Democratic Party.

O'Leary, a 17-year veteran of Democratic Party politics, served as a Dukakis whip at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. During the Carter administration, O'Leary organized the first and only meeting of gay and lesbian leaders held in the White House. In 1977, President Carter appointed O'Leary to the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, the first time an openly gay person had been appointed to a presidential commission. Carter later named O'Leary to his National Advisory Commission on the Status of Women.

For the past seven years, O'Leary has been executive director of National Gay Rights Advocates, a nonprofit, impact litigation firm committed to promoting civil rights for lesbians and gays.

"No names" forge ahead

Beginning Friday, September 2, gays and lesbians and their supporters will gather at Pioneer Courthouse from 4:30 to 6 pm to participate in demonstrations against the bigoted and discriminatory Ballot Measure 8. The demonstrations will continue each Friday until further notice.

Organizers of the weekly events say that they will also continue to protest the removal of Cascade AIDS Project's AIDS-education ads from Tri-Met buses. The demonstrations will feature educational materials, placards and signs to alert the general public to the explicit dangers in the ballot measure.

"Bring a sign and join us," said Fred Menard. "And if people want copies of the CAP posters, I have a good supply. Call me at 233-7216."

Plans are also in motion to secure Pioneer Courthouse Square for a noon rally on National Coming Out Day, October 11. Beginning in the first week of October and continuing until the election, human billboards will be set up on bridges and busy streets throughout the metropolitan area.

The organizer of these events, a group of concerned lesbians and gays who invite all people to join in the struggle, meets each Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the back room of the Embers, located at Northwest Broadway and Couch Street. The group is, at this writing, unnamed. (Maybe it's better that way.)

Town Hall faces Measure 8

KATU-TV's *Town Hall* (Channel 2 in Portland) will take a look at Measure 8 and its ramifications for the gay and lesbian community on November 6, two days before the general election. In order to provide a balanced presentation, *Town Hall's* producers are dividing the limited seating between Oregon Citizens Alliance (sponsors of the anti-gay ballot measure) and Oregonians for Fairness.

Oops!

The Oregon Democratic Party has never elected an openly gay man or woman as a member of a delegation to our national convention" (*Just Out*, July 1988).

Well, you know how it is when you say *never* — or *always*. Way back in 1976, the Oregon Democratic Party elected its first openly gay delegate, Richard Pastega, a lifelong resident of Klamath Falls. Pastega called to tell us that he was a delegate committed to the candidacy of Jerry Brown, and that he was then as now an openly gay man.

Pastega is still active in politics and is the only openly gay person holding an elective office in Oregon. (We would love being proved wrong on this.)

Pastega is a member of the Klamath Falls City Council. He has recently been under fire in a controversy over funding for streetlights in that city. Judging from letters to the editor printed in the *Klamath Falls Herald and News* concerning the complicated matter, Pastega is something of a local hero. A *High Noon*-style showdown against a barrage of political maneuverings led to censure by his opponents on the city council. (We'll have more on this next month.)

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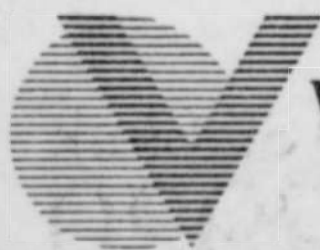
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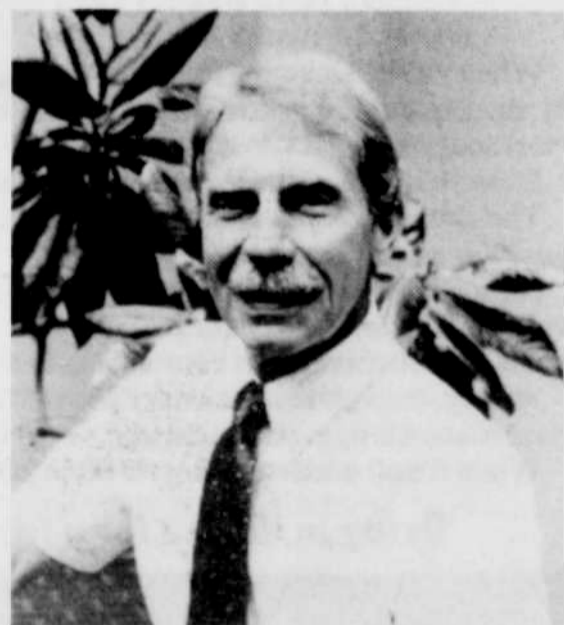
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