

Poll shows discrimination unacceptable

Both sides of the campaign on Measure 8 collided late last month in the southeast office of Oregonians for Fairness. While OFF staff creased 30,000 envelopes for a mass mailing, fielded requests for 150 lawn signs from Ashland and signed up volunteers to register voters in bars, the voice of virulent anti-homosexual activist Paul Cameron seeped from the radio, urging listeners to vote for the repeal measure.

The Oregon Citizens Alliance, which is seeking to repeal Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's executive order protecting gays and lesbians in the state executive branch from discrimination based on sexual orientation, has already purchased radio spots peppered with the "no special rights" argument that was used to gather petition signatures. Meanwhile, OFF staff are busy fund-raising for their own battery of radio and print ads.

"Media probably will make or break this campaign," said Cathy Siemens, deputy campaign manager.

Recent poll results look promising for Measure 8 foes. An *Oregonian* poll published September 13 showed that 54 percent of voters oppose the measure and 36 percent favor it. A poll conducted for OFF basically confirmed those results, as well as showing that 82 percent of voters do not believe discrimination on the job is acceptable.

"It's not so much that they are particularly in favor of gay rights, but they are opposed to discrimination," Siemens said.

OFF also has gathered an arsenal of endorsements from labor, religious and political groups. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the AFL-CIO and the Oregon Education Association all have announced their opposition to Measure 8. The voters' guide will contain arguments against the measure from the American Friends Service Committee, the Oregon Public Employees Union, the ACLU and the vice president of U.S. West Communications.

Arguments for the measure in the voters' guide are endorsed by groups ranging from Former Homosexuals for the Passage of Ballot Measure 8 to the Oregon Association of Evangelicals. A statement from Oregon Business for Responsible Public Policy sets the tone of most of the pro-Measure 8 arguments by ignoring lesbians and describing homosexuals as "a sexually deviant group seeking special privileges and legitimacy."

Upcoming events sponsored by OFF include

- A community meeting, October 5 at 7 pm, at Metropolitan Community Church
- A benefit performance of *Hair*, October 16, at Portland Civic Theatre
- A spaghetti dinner and talent show performed by Queers United Against Closets, October 23.

Call the OFF office at 231-3913 for more information or to volunteer.

— Anndee Hochman

NAP taps Oregonian

Delegates to the national nominating convention of the New Alliance Party chose Harold Moore as candidate for vice president on the general-election ballot in Oregon. Moore's name will appear along with that of Dr. Lenora B. Fulani, the first black woman to be on the ballot in all 50 states and to receive matching funds from the federal government.

Moore, 43, is a native Oregonian. He has been a staff reporter for *Just Out* since January

1988, when he returned to Portland after a long absence.

In an interview with *The National Alliance*, a New York City newspaper published by the New Alliance Party, Moore made reference to "a long and complicated criminal history." Since his release from federal prison in January, he has been active in the Portland lesbian and gay community.

Moore recently served as a media coordinator for the Names Project: Oregon/Southwest Washington and in February helped with Sanford Director's birthday fund-raiser. During the 1988 Oregon primary season he was active in the Dukakis for President campaign. •

AIDS impact study

A new research study about AIDS prevention will be started this fall in Portland. Gay and bisexual men will participate in a series of group interviews on how they are coping with the threat of the epidemic and on strategies they are using to minimize their risk for the disease.

Social psychologist Kerth O'Brien from Portland State University is collaborating with the staff of Cascade AIDS Project on the research. "We know by now that HIV — the human immunodeficiency virus — is behaviorally transmitted," said O'Brien, the study's principal investigator, "and gay men have made changes to cut down on behaviors that are risk-related. We're trying to find out what helps them to maintain that level of change over time."

Tom Koberstein of CAP added that changing one's health habits is something that can have its costs unless a person thinks of new habits in a

positive way. "This study will look at health behaviors and psychological health together," he said, "and based on our work, we think that's an asset."

According to information from the Oregon State Health Division, 425 persons in Oregon have been diagnosed with AIDS as of September 14.

QUAC meets OCA

When a mere ten members of Queers United Against Closets paid a surprise visit on the Oregon Citizens Alliance Saturday, September 10, they got more than a welcoming committee.

That date had been set as OCA's special conference on tax issues. (They hate more than queers; they hate the disproportionately high rate of taxes we pay.) The all-day meeting was slated for the Holiday Inn at Wilsonville.

QUAC arrived in time for its three prepaid registrants to settle in the meeting room before the OCA regulars got there. (Heaven forbid that QUAC should rely on hearsay evidence as to what was said inside!)

Five QUACers set up not-at-all-discreet posters just inside the parking lot to meet and greet OCA participants as they arrived. Hardly anyone showed. Hardly anyone at all.

After about fifteen minutes, a man who showed no identification but who said he was assistant manager of the Holiday Inn said we would have to leave, that we were trespassing and that we were bad for business. We told him that discrimination was bad for business *anywhere*, but he didn't get the message. We then asked where the property lines were, as we wanted no trouble, but he refused to answer. We asked again, and he told us to leave again,

Photo by Pat Bates



QUACers confront OCA

saying he had called the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department.

Being the law-abiding ducks that we are, we moved the cars of those who had not paid for registration and took our posters to an area just off I-5 that we felt was off Holiday Inn property.

A police car pulled up with one deputy inside. Then came another, and yet another. Before long, our five QUACers from inside were being escorted out by three fine men in uniform, just as cordial as they could be. Our people's money was refunded, we got to read some hilarious brochures — which lose their humor when one realizes that OCA takes itself seriously — and we drove off to Burns Brothers for coffee with the truckers.

Oh, yeah — the really weird part was that there were only ten OCA members present. Why the ten of them required three nice sheriff's deputies — who should have been out spending precious tax dollars fighting drugs, violence and other crimes — to remove five peaceable QUACers from their poorly-attended meeting will always be a real mystery.

— Susie Shepherd

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