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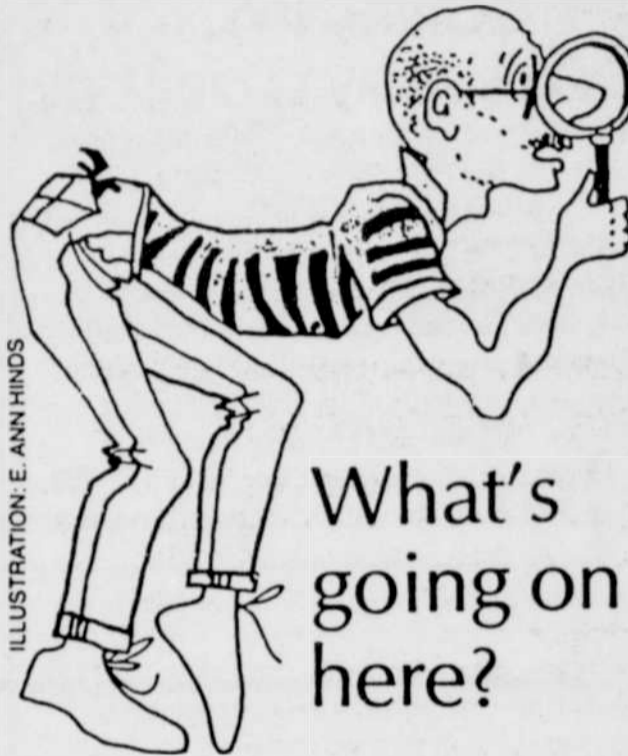
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### Voices in the wilderness

"We are living in a time when it's still fashionable among Christian people, as well as others, to, at best, trivialize gay men and lesbians — at worst to persecute them.

A great number of clergy are gay and lesbian. Of course, church members are too. The church would probably collapse if all of us were to disappear. The issue is not who's homosexual and who's not, but who's open about it."

— Rev. Carter Heyward, an ordained Episcopal priest and open lesbian, comments on the state of religion at the consecration of Bishop Barbara Harris, her friend and colleague, in Boston. Harris became the first woman to be consecrated as bishop in the Episcopal Church of the United States, which is part of the worldwide Anglican community of 70 million members, (Bay Windows, February 16-22, 1989)



What's going on here?

BY JAY BROWN

For AIDS to be transmitted sexually, both partners must engage in unsafe sex. Either partner can prevent unsafe sex by insisting on use of condoms or other forms of safer sex. The Hudson case sends the dangerous message that if people practice unsafe sex, it's someone else's fault if they become infected — they don't bear any responsibility to protect themselves.

There are other troubling implications: The decision discourages voluntary testing by making it legally safer not to know you're infected. And it endangers the confidentiality protections needed to encourage voluntary testing and medical treatment. If Rock Hudson's secretary can be required to reveal his employer's diagnosis, would other people's friends and family members be under a similar obligation?

— Benjamin Schatz, an attorney with National Gay Rights Activists, comments on a jury award of \$21.5 million to Marc Christian, lover of the late Rock Hudson. (USA Today, February 20, 1989)

### ABA resolution encourages gay rights

A resolution encouraging federal, state, and local governments to enact legislation prohibiting discrimination against gays and lesbians in employment, housing, and public accommodations was approved by delegates at the American Bar Association's (ABA) semi-annual meeting in February according to a report in Bay Windows. The resolution, which passed by a vote of 251-121, was defeated by narrow margins at ABA conventions in 1983 and 1985.

### Legislators trivialize dangers to gays and lesbians

Two Oregon legislators must have won high praise from the Oregon Citizens Alliance as they badgered witnesses during the

Subcommittee on Crimes of the House Judiciary Committee hearings on HB 2364 conducted on February 18. (The bill would include sexual orientation within categories protected by the intimidation law.)

Republicans John Minnis and Kelly Clark, neither of whom are members of the subcommittee, monopolized the proceedings with dubious questions and commentary aimed at trivializing the need for including protections against intimidation of gays and lesbians.

Minnis repeatedly asked, "How do you prove sexual orientation?" He said that from his experience as a policeman, he could envision a prosecutor asking an assault victim to prove his or her sexual orientation. He said that such questioning would appear to be an invasion of privacy.

Clark said again and again that he wants civil rights relating to sexual orientation "legislative, not in the courts." Clark repeatedly asked, "What signal does this bill send to the courts" that sexual orientation defines a suspected class?

For more on the legislature, see the legislative report on page 11.

### TV show features gays in the military

Dr. Mary Ann Humphrey, a lesbian whose difficulties with the military were recounted in a Just Out interview last August, will be among the guests on NBC's Sally Jessy Raphael Show on gays in the military on March 3rd. Other guests include Miriam Ben-Shalom, Ellen Nesbitt and Perry Watkins.

During the past year Humphrey has conducted interviews with more than 100 gay military members and veterans for an oral history on the subject. Humphrey is also seeking a publisher for the book.

### Intimidation hampers Salem student group

Gays and lesbians at Chemeketa Community College in Salem are experiencing difficulties in establishing a student group — but not because of administrative resistance. Notices and posters publicizing meetings of the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Student Alliance have been systematically removed from bulletin boards on the college campus.

According to Greg Asher, the group's faculty advisor, intimidation is also a major factor in attendance at Alliance meetings. After two menacing-looking Skinhead types attended a meeting last fall, attendance at Alliance meetings dropped dramatically. "At the next meeting, I sat there by myself," Asher said.

The Gay Lesbian Bisexual Student Alliance of Chemeketa Community College meets every other Wednesday in Bldg. 3, Room 281 at 3:30 pm. For more information call Greg Asher at 399-5197.

### Help house the homeless

Measure 26-3 on the special mail ballot for the March 28 election will impose a tax of .15 percent on transfer of ownership of real property in Multnomah County. The tax will be paid when transfer is recorded. Revenue is dedicated to housing needs of homeless and other low-income special-needs persons. The measure exempts certain real property transfers, including those where the sale price is less than \$40,000 and provides for appeal if exemption is denied. Funds in the Homeless Housing Program will be administered by the Housing Authority of Portland under a county-approved annual plan.

An estimated 15,000 households at or below the poverty level in Multnomah County are in need of housing assistance. Many of these people are homeless; increasing numbers of women, children, and youth are homeless. Among the homeless are many gay and lesbian youth who have been thrown away by their families. And increasingly, people with AIDS are in dire need of housing assistance.

Vote "yes" on Measure 26-3 and help house the homeless.