

Goodman for making a printout of names and phone numbers from the database available to about 150 community members who met at OFF campaign headquarters a day or so after the election. Stewart Joliffe, who retained the printout, burned it to save off demands for copies by various groups and individuals. The charges levelled by Kaufman and Siemens then focused on whether use of the printout was authorized.

Given Cathy Siemens' public stance on this issue, I am disturbed to observe her use the OFF database for a bulk mailing to promote her new real estate career. I like Cathy. And I can see how tempting it must have been to target the No on 8 constituency given her visibility in the campaign. It's good marketing. But in my view, use of the OFF mailing list for commercial gain, authorized or not, cannot be justified.

Who gave Siemens the mailing list? It wasn't me. Over the past few months, several groups and individuals have made demands on me for the mailing list.

I have refused them all, save two: in late November, on short notice, I gave a complete backup copy of the database to Janice Wilson, but because the steering committee didn't have the necessary computer program to read the database, this backup copy could not be accessed. In February, I gave Jann Carson floppy discs containing two lists she had requested from the database. Carson copied these lists into the ACLU computer.

In those two lists, I forgot to eliminate the trailing blank spaces from the data field containing the first name. The mailing labels Siemens used show several blank spaces between the addressees' first and last names. The last name of one person was misspelled both on the database and on the mailing label attached to Siemens' mailer.

Both Wilson and Carson are steering committee members. I gave them the information they requested because I was satisfied each was acting on behalf of the steering committee as a whole. It was made clear to me from the beginning that the database was the "property" of the steering committee.

One would hope that the steering committee, while discussing the future of the database at its final December 14 meeting, would have written a clear policy for Carson to follow with respect to the mailing list, but knowing first hand how the steering committee conducted business during the campaign, I'd give you ten-to-one odds that nothing's on paper. The steering committee members I've approached on the issue either can't remember what the policy is or give me varying accounts of its content.

If the policy permits Carson to give the OFF mailing list to ex-staffers for business use, then the policy is shortsighted. Such a policy goes a long way toward destroying trust with those members and friends of Oregon's gay and

lesbian community who contributed to the campaign. Many gave money for the first time. I imagine some will think twice the next time. What's next? Mass mailings from your Nordstrom fashion consultant? Where does one draw the line?

Poor management decisions of this nature were common. For example, few people probably realize that the No on 8 campaign was run by a part-time campaign manager who earned full-time pay. After teaching high school, Liz Kaufman arrived at the office each day about 1 pm. She then left the office for an hour-long lunch. Consequently, decision making was effectively postponed until Kaufman began her work day at 2 pm. This process was guaranteed to cause severe management problems. Thalia Zepatos was hired to help Liz manage the load. Shouldn't a full-time campaign manager, one familiar with gay and lesbian politics, have been hired in the first place?

I'll freely admit that I certainly made my fair share of mistakes. I spread myself too thin on too many tasks. And it was me, after all, who ran out of gas on the way to Salem, resulting in the one-minute-late filing of the early November contribution and expenditure report. That bit of carelessness led to a fine against Oregonians for Fairness to the tune of \$2,000 in community money. The Secretary of State's office held a hearing on the matter in December on a date the steering committee knew I would be in Missouri on family business. I was the obvious witness. Why didn't the steering committee request that the hearing be delayed until I returned in January, so I could testify in person? Several Portland lawyers are willing to work for free on gay and lesbian issues. Why weren't we represented by counsel at the hearing?

I don't resent the fact that people made mistakes nearly as much as I resent these same people avoiding being held accountable. Mistakes are unlikely to come to light when critics are excluded from the review process. But the stifling of criticism appears to be a hallmark of the campaign aftermath.

Can't the No on 8 people acknowledge that mistakes were made, discuss what they were and how they might have been avoided? Or is that simply too threatening for those involved? Two things are certain: the community's continuing denial of the election loss won't transform the defeat to victory; and the community's continuing failure to discuss the reasons for the loss won't prevent the recurrence of the same mistakes the next time we're forced to defend our civil rights at the ballot box (foster parenting?).

I propose a community meeting, during Lesbian and Gay Pride Week presided over by a firm and neutral moderator. It should be held in the New England style where those present can briefly voice an opinion about the future direction of Oregon's lesbian and gay liberation

movement. What better way to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Stonewall uprising than an open discussion about where our community goes from here.

But in answering that question, we need to know where we've been. To that end, the No on 8 steering committee members and staff should assemble at a public forum a couple of weeks before the community meeting to respond to concerns about the campaign. The current

situation is analogous to the dysfunctional family who can't, or won't, discuss a family problem. Though our community is philosophically diverse, we all share one goal in common: lesbian and gay liberation. If all of us can't come together at least once a year to reassess our various efforts to reach that goal, then the question needs to be asked whether our community truly exists. ▼

### Campaign Staff

Liz Kaufman  
*Campaign Manager*

Thalia Zepatos  
*Consultant*

Cathy Siemens  
*Deputy Campaign Manager*

Carl Goodman  
*Office Manager*

Jerry Dahlke  
*Fundraiser*

Greg Smith  
*Fundraiser*

Tim Hughes  
*Fundraiser*

Wayne Harris  
*Data Processing Coordinator*

Kevin Donnegan  
*Administrative Assistant*

### Original steering committee (pre-campaign)

John Baker	Keeston Lowery
Kathleen Bogan	Cathy Siemens
Jann Carson	Janice Wilson

### The steering committee (mid-campaign):

Terry Bean	Scott Lieuallen
Joan Binninger	Keeston Lowery
Kathleen Bogan	Patricia McCaig
Jann Carson	Phyllis Oster
Garrett Lenoir	Janice Wilson

### The steering committee (present)

Terry Bean	Scott Lieuallen
Joan Binninger	Keeston Lowery
Kathleen Bogan	Phyllis Oster
Jann Carson	Janice Wilson

### Siemens Responds

With only a day and a half lead time, former members of the OFF steering committee could not be assembled to prepare a detailed response. With all due respect to Wayne's right to voice his opinion, it should be noted that the article contains numerous factual errors.

For example, Liz Kaufman, like everyone else on the campaign, gave 100 percent plus, working long, late hours and weekends. However, I wonder how belaboring non-issues such as this helps our community. Campaigns and people are certainly imperfect and easy to

criticize. No on 8 and all of us who worked on it are no exception.

But the larger point we can agree on — that of a shared commitment to lesbian and gay liberation. The question, "What are future directions for the lesbian and gay movement?" is a good one. Many groups are hard at work: LCP with its "Margins to the Mainstream Media Project," the ACLU's activity in the legislature, the Right to Privacy PAC's new organization, ACT UP's confrontations. While there may be no one "answer," there are many answers and a place for everyone. Let's get on with it!

— Cathy Siemens

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