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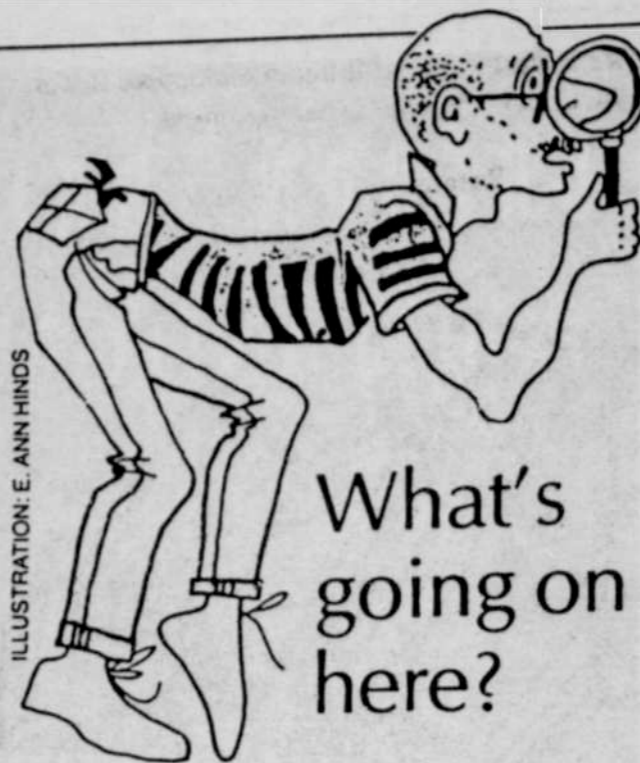


ILLUSTRATION: E. ANN HINDS

What's  
going on  
here?

B Y J A Y B R O W N

### Voice in the wilderness

**T**he divorce between the Church and the State ought to be absolute. It ought to be so absolute that no Church property anywhere, in any state, or in the nation, should be exempt from equal taxation; for if you exempt the property of church organization, to that extent you impose a tax upon the whole community."

—President James A. Garfield, in a speech to Congress, June 22, 1874.  
(GALA Realist, December 1989)

### Building blocks against bigotry

**W**e hear from various sources that Portland Public Schools administrators may be willing to listen to suggestions from gays and lesbians regarding programs to combat bias and anti-gay discrimination in the district's curricula. A meeting this month will be the second such for brainstorming by lesbians and gays to contribute to the development of guidelines for reliable and progressive information regarding sexual diversity.

We hope that those involved in this project, and who fear a backlash from the crazies, will confront their own internalized homophobia. At this point in history, no public employee in Oregon will lose a job for addressing issues of bias and anti-gay discrimination in public school curricula.

Yes, we can expect harassment from the bigots — their self-appointed "special right" to promote fear and ignorance about gays and lesbians will be infringed upon — but also, we can expect that their anti-gay propaganda and hysteria will be drowned out by the voices of reason and fairness. If those voicing reason and fairness are visible and assertive, that is.

Why do the OCA-types get to set the agenda? After all, it's bigotry that's shameful, not homosexuality.

### Singing sisters

**T**he Portland Lesbian Choir grossly miscalculated their drawing power when they scheduled their December concert at the Metropolitan Community Church on Northeast Broadway. According to a PLC member, the space was oversold by at least a hundred persons. People were stashed anywhere a folding chair could be squeezed in. Performers and the audience were on very intimate terms.

The PLC's steadily growing audience should signal changes within the organization. As the choir becomes more confident in its abilities and as its audience increases even more, the performers might remember that good public relations is important, too.

### Snooper poopers

**O**rganizers of the Womansource Fall Gatherings near Ashland are seeking a new site for their annual event. During the last gathering, a couple of boys who were snooping around the camp observed two women engaged in overt sexual activities. Soon afterwards, the Girl Scouts (owner of the property) received a letter from a person living near the site. The letter writer, claiming clout with United Way, threatened to withhold United Way funding from the Girl Scouts unless Womansource was banned from the camp.

Womansource had used the Girl Scout camp for more than five years. Needless to say, there are many irate women in and about the Northwest.

### Reagan's legacies, continued

**A** front page story in the New York Times on December 19 revealed just how devastating Reaganomics has been and will continue to be on the American public.

"As more and more essential functions have been turned over to private parties as part of 'privatization,' the Government's control and accountability to the public has been eroded" to the tune of \$300 billion in past and future losses, the story related.

The most gross examples of the Reagan bandits' zeal to loot the American taxpayer is illustrated in the horrendous costs of the Federal bailout of the savings and loan industry and the political manipulations of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. For generations to come, Americans will be footing the Reaganomics bill; and the rich will continue to get richer as the poor continue to pay for their greed.

Speaking of greed, another recent NYT front page story reported the imminent bankruptcy of Bloomingdale's. Whatever will any faggot worthy of the name do if this really comes to pass?

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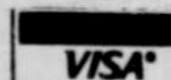
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