



ACT UP

This space is the newsletter of ACT UP/Portland and is made possible by a grant from the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation and Just Out.

Miller beer added to boycott

Local gay and lesbian bars, restaurants and their patrons, have actively joined ACT UP's nationwide Marlboro and Miller boycotts. Both Miller and Marlboro (as well as General Foods, Kraft Foods, and Oscar Mayer Foods) are owned by parent company, Philip Morris Co., which is the single largest corporate contributor to the Jesse Helms Campaign. Philip Morris recently donated \$200,000 to the "Jesse Helms Museum" at Wingate College. Senator Helms (R-N.C.) has consistently voted against lesbian and gay civil rights and against issues that directly affect the lives of people with HIV.

To date, the Complex/Boxx's and Brig, the Fish Grotto, Silverado, Embers, Hobo's, JOQ's, and Scandal's Tavern have either refused their Miller deliveries or changed to a different draft beer. Now it is up to you! Let your dollars send the message that Jesse Helms must be stopped. Buying Marlboro and Miller promotes ignorance about AIDS. Call 800-343-0975 or 800-446-7030 and give them hell. Every time you call the 800 numbers it costs them money.

A few reasons to dump Jesse Helms

- Helms votes anti-lesbian and anti-gay:
 - to prohibit funds from being used for educational materials that promote or encourage homosexuality or state that homosexuality is "normal, natural or healthy"
 - to allow any organization in Washington DC, to exclude adult homosexuals and bisexuals from participating in a program that "educates, coaches or trains any minor" or "holds out the adult as a role model, mentor, or companion to any minor"
 - to prohibit the use of funds for AIDS education materials that "promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual sexual activities"

Coos Bay doctor draws ACT UP ire

ACT UP members, together with members of the Coos Bay Gay and Lesbian Outreach Network (GALON), protested August 19 at the local Coos Bay hospital where an AIDS-phobic doctor has working privileges. The internist targeted, Dr. Ward Buckingham, was the author of a letter to the editor that protested national attention and

government spending on the AIDS crisis, since in his opinion, AIDS is the result of the perverted homosexual lifestyle. The entire letter was filled with misinformation and undisguised hatred for lesbians and gay men.

The focus of the protest was to educate passersby that HIV disease is not only contracted by gay men—for example, 60 percent of all new HIV cases in 1989 were heterosexual women. Another point was that money spent on AIDS research is invaluable to general medical knowledge as well as to AIDS treatments. Hopefully Buckingham's colleagues will recognize his ignorance and hatred, and put the heat on him.

Be a telephone activist

Pick up your phone on September 25 and join the nationwide phone zap against New Dimensions Magazine. Dial: 1-800-877-3227 or 1-800-866-9499 and voice your disgust, anger, etc. with *New Dimensions*. *New Dimensions* is a conservative magazine published in our own back yard in Grants Pass by the Foundation for Human Understanding (!?), a.k.a. Roy Masters and his group of bible thumping homophobes. Recently an entire issue of *New Dimensions* was devoted to spreading misinformation about AIDS and its transmission. They say that casual contact, mosquito bites and eating in restaurants are some of the ways AIDS is transmitted. According to *New Dimensions*, "The cruelest form of injustice employed by the militant gay lobby is to accuse sensitive decent people of bigotry, hatred and 'homophobia' for simply following their own moral consciences and seeing abnormals as abnormal." Pick up your phone September 25 and give them hell. Every time you do it will cost them money!

ACT UP goes to court

ACT UP/Portland vs. Bagley, et.al. will be heard before Judge Marsh, September 25, in the US District Court House. The lawsuit alleges that federal marshalls in Portland strip-searched ten ACT UP demonstrators following their arrest for nonviolent civil disobedience at a Portland protest of Food and Drug Administration AIDS policies. Specifically, the protest targeted bureaucratic delays in the approval of drug treatments for ailments associated with AIDS that are safe as well as promising. The ACT UP demonstrators, all lesbians and gay men, claim the strip search was unjustified and that the marshalls violated their fourth amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches. Join us September 25 on the US Court House steps (620 SW Main) in support of civil rights!

Community coalition battles bigotry

ACT UP is one of several community groups active in a new grassroots organization in Portland, the Community Defense Coalition (CDC), which is taking on the role of community watchdog and educator in fighting hate crime. The CDC is a diverse group of people, united across class, race, age, sex, and sexual orientation by a common commitment to taking direct action on issues of human, political and social rights. The CDC believes in confronting bigotry in our community at the source, as evidenced by recent demonstrations at the workplaces and homes of known Nazis.

In another recent action, the CDC coordinated support for locked out grocery workers fighting to retain minimum health benefits. About 20 people from ACT UP, Anti-Racist Action, Coalition for Human Dignity, the Rainbow Coalition, and other groups joined the picket lines of a North Portland Safeway store August 2. In a related incident, four activists joined a barbecue with the striking Greyhound bus drivers August 3.

Not only were connections made between the issues of health benefits and AIDS at these sympathy strikes, but issues of homophobia also came into play. When a striking driver hurled the word "faggot" as an insult to a scab driver, there were dykes and faggots on line to deal directly with the striker.

The CDC meets at 7 pm every second and fourth Thursday at Metropolitan Community Church. For more information, call ACT UP at 232-1038.

Join us

ACT UP is a nationwide nonviolent, direct action group organized to fight the multiple issues surrounding AIDS. We hope that the gay and lesbian community will join us to fight AIDS, homophobia, racism and classism. Whether you join ACT UP, join us in coalitions or contribute, we want you to know we appreciate your support.

Join us the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 7 pm at the Metropolitan Community Church basement—corner of 24th and NE Broadway. Enter on the Broadway side.

Special note: Read Michael Bronski's article in The Lavender Network August 1990 issue for the most thorough and clear discussion on outing ever written.

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Portland, OR 97228 (503) 232-1038.



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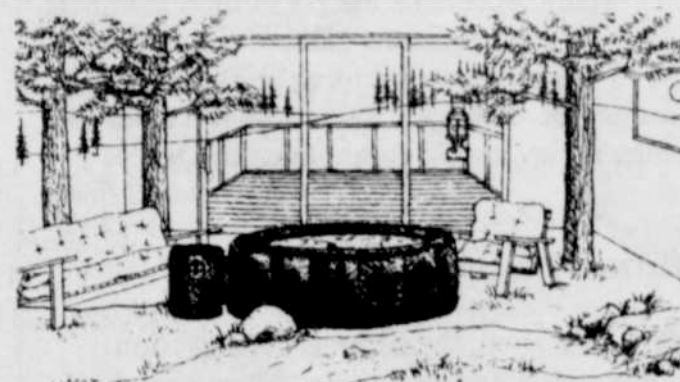
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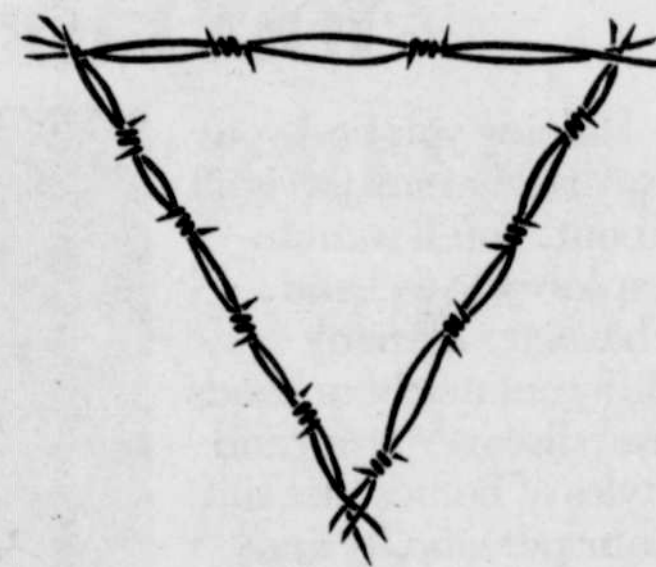
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