

(Continued from previous page)

Trow added, "The initiative uses language that means many things to many different people, words like 'normal' and 'typical.' Putting words like that into the state constitution opens the door for conflicting interpretations of people's behavior. The state constitution is not the place to legislate morality."

Vars noted that "the constitutional amendment the OCA proposes would take away our ability locally to decide what Corvallis and Benton County citizens think is right for this community."

Robson shared his findings from working with over 500 pedophiles in the past 14 years. He said "It's ludicrous to identify pedophiles as homosexuals. There is no question that pedophiles self-identify as heterosexual in almost all cases."

Reading from a statement signed by 13 local clergy, Zaworski affirmed that their "opposition to the initiative was founded on our Christian convictions that each individual's human dignity is to be respected and that protection of civil rights is part of our call from the God of Justice."

Demarest echoed everyone's thoughts when she stated, "Thus, we believe that all attempts—whether judicial, executive, legislative, or electoral—to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation are unacceptable, illegal and unAmerican."

## Pink Panthers patrol streets of Portland

Pink Panthers Portland, an affiliate of Portland's chapter of Queer Nation, have taken to the street. The Pink Panthers take their name from a similar group in New York. The group formed here to combat, in a variety of ways, the increase of hate motivated crimes against lesbians, gays and bisexuals, as well as other kinds of hate motivated violence that occurs in Portland.

The primary way the Panthers will combat violence is the street patrol. Patrols will consist of 8 to 10 Panthers, who are always in radio contact with a base monitor. Patrol members are required to attend self-defense and intervention training before being sent on patrol. Periodic review trainings are required as long as members serve on the patrol. On the street, non-violent intervention and de-escalation is the focus. When necessary, the police will be called.

Initially, the Panthers will patrol the "Stark Strip" and Old Town areas of downtown Portland. For the first few weeks, the patrol will be active on Saturday nights from 10 pm to 3 am. As membership increases, patrols will be added on Thursday and Friday nights, and eventually in other areas of town.

Along with the street patrol, the Pink Panthers will be helping to coordinate a community-wide whistle campaign to help lesbians, gays and bisexuals better protect themselves. The Homophobic Violence Reporting Project is also involved with the whistle program. Jars of whistles, with the Reporting Lines number printed on the side, will be placed in community centers such as bars, clubs, or service organizations. People may purchase whistles for a small fee (around \$1 each) and will be encouraged to carry and use them whenever they feel threatened, and to help distribute to others. The Panthers will also help distribute other material, to help educate community members about protecting themselves.

The patrol is working with the Portland Police Department and has the full support of Chief Tom Potter.

The Pink Panthers will conduct training seminars the second Saturday of every month, between 2 pm and 5 pm, at the City Nightclub, 1313 NW 13th Avenue. There will also be a general Pink Panther meeting on the third Thursday of every month, at 6:30 pm, also at the City Nightclub. For more information contact Kelly at 282-4174.

## Oregon vital records unit lists lesbian couple as married

Roberta Michele Winston died on May 27, 1991. Her death certificate lists her marital status as married and her spouse as Francine A. Yunker. Under relationship to deceased it lists Yunker as Winston's life partner.

When Yunker answered questions for the death certificate at the funeral home she just told the truth.

When she received the Certificate of Death the registrar had written down all her answers just as she had given them, and on May 30 the State of Oregon Vital Records Unit, issued a death certificate listing Winston and Yunker as married.

## Coalition needs support

The Coalition for Human Dignity needs support in order to continue its vital work in Portland and around the state. CHD is instrumental in working against the Oregon Citizen's Alliance.

"The rising problem of organized bigotry and hate crimes has increased the demand for our services beyond what our current budget and volunteer support can bear," says activist Scott Nakagawa.

The coalition has led the work locally to defeat sexist, racist, homophobic and anti-semitic bigotry. Their bi-monthly newsjournal informs Oregonians of statewide white supremacy and neo-nazi activities, coalition news, pro-active groups and upcoming events.

The Coalition is seeking members and financial support. Membership is \$5 to \$100 sliding scale, per year.

Sponsors are currently being sought to support CHD's program of counter-action against the Oregon Citizen's Alliance. Meetings are first and third Thursdays of each month at 7pm at the Metropolitan Community Church. Send contributions to PO Box 40344, Portland, OR 97240.

## Burns Brothers kicks out OCA

On Saturday, Aug. 24, Burns Brothers Truck-stop in Troutdale hosted an auto show. Car buffs came to see other car buffs' refurbished cars.

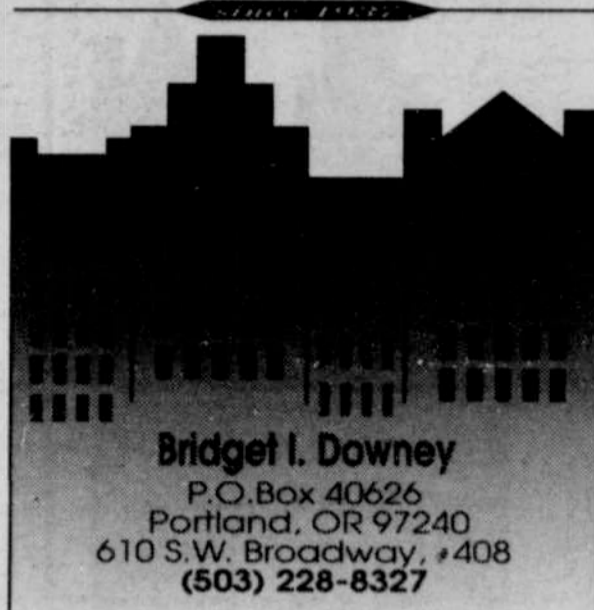
Priscilla Martin and another member of the Oregon Citizens Alliance were there with an old beater car covered with moral majority bumper stickers, handing out *The Alliance* newspaper, and sharing homophobic information.

A gay truck driver came through, complained to organizers, and called *Just Out*. Editor Linda Kliever called Burns Brothers. According to car show participant Pat Mechler of Portland, organizers told the OCA members, "you have five seconds to get out or we'll call police and get a tow truck to get you out."

Their reception throughout the day had been less than positive, according to car show participants.

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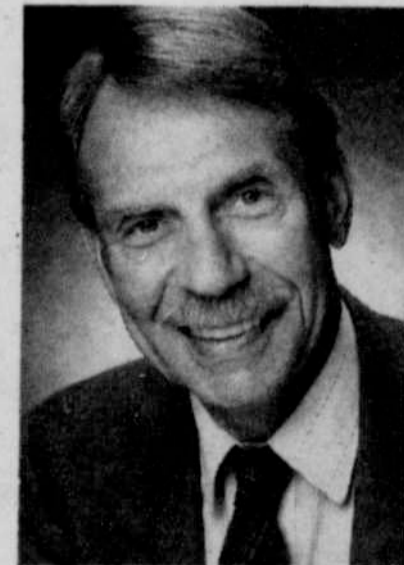
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