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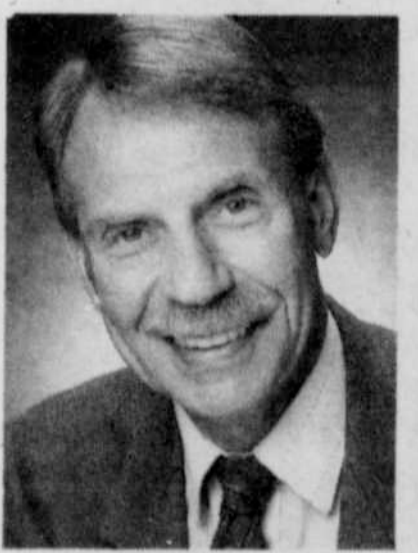
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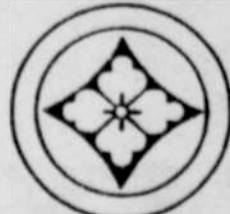
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oca watch

BY JEFF WILLIAMSON

Petition drive deadline nears, Bigot Busting continues

July 3 is the day that the Oregon Citizens Alliance needs to have the required 89,028 signatures delivered to the office of the Secretary of State in order to place their initiative amending the state constitution on the November ballot. The group has also been sponsoring an initiative requiring voter approval for all new tax or fee increases. The OCA has been unavailable to comment on the status of their initiatives since a June 1992 release which indicated that they have "only half as many signatures as needed statewide."

The Bigot Busters have continued their work, scouting out signature gathering sites and dispatching their group members. Reportedly, OCA gathered signatures at the Rose Festival Parade, and the Rose Festival Air Show at Hillsboro airport.

Bob Ralphs, coordinator of Bigot Busters, submitted advertisements to radio stations KUPL and KWJJ but the two country western stations refused to air the 60 second spots. Ralphs had the money to pay for the ads. He says that the ads were requests for support of Bigot Busting and inquiries to anyone who felt that they had been misled into signing the petition with misinformation and lies.

National leather community addresses OCA threat

In a recent news release from the National Leather Association's International Advisory Council, the group stated that at their May 25 meeting in Chicago they "voted unanimously to make as its number one goal defeat of the Oregon Citizen Alliance's current petition drive, and defeat of a similar measure slated for Colorado's November ballot." Over 2,000 activists from North America and beyond, converged in Chicago for the meeting and the International Mr. Leather Contest.

K.T. Chase and Susie Shepherd mailed out information to NLA activists, disseminated information in conference packets, and addressed the council about the current political situation with the OCA in Oregon. "The OCA is trying to pit one minority against another," says Chase. Chase and Shepherd are continuing to inform the international leather community about the OCA, providing materials for fundraisers and anti-OCA T-shirts for titleholders to wear in their travels. Says Chase, "I am truly proud of the leatherfolks' strong show of solidarity with our diverse gay and lesbian communities across the nation."

Definitely not a class act

Motions to dismiss the civil action brought by Paul C. deParrie against the City of Portland, Fred Meyer, Right to Privacy PAC, Campaign for a Hate Free Oregon, Lesbian Community Project, No on Hate PAC, Bigot Busters, Queer Nation/Portland, Radical Women, Charles Hinkle, Tom Potter, Katie Potter, Cheryl Perron, Donna Red Wing, Sherry Oeser, Bob Ralphs, Tom Strong (sic), John Baker, and Adrienne Weller will be heard Tuesday, July 7, 9:30 am at the United States District Courthouse, 620 SW Main, Room 71. Judge Robert Jones will be presiding.

The plaintiff, deParrie, is seeking a total of \$12 million in punitive damages from the defendants.

The defendants are anticipating the dismissal of the civil action.

OCA springs bomber

Although group leaders regularly claim that they are "against violence in any form," the Oregon Citizens Alliance recently bailed one of its members out of jail. Greg Lathrop had an outstanding warrant for federal charges of unlaw-

ful manufacture and possession of explosive devices, as well as the reckless endangerment of others. Lathrop was arrested on April 28 at the Beaverton Mall for trespassing charges. Lathrop was at the shopping center gathering signatures for the group's anti-gay ballot measure, and refused to leave when asked by security agents at the mall. The OCA bailed Lathrop out with money raised by the group for its statewide No Special Rights campaign.

Apparently, the outstanding charges on Lathrop arose from a 1990 raid on his home in Aloha, by agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Lathrop also has a prior conviction from 1985 for manufacture and possession of methamphetamines. After the incident, Lon Mabon told the press that the OCA did not know about Lathrop's outstanding charges, but that the group felt that they should pay his bail since he was arrested circulating their petition.

Needless to say, OCA petition gatherers are no longer welcome at the Beaverton Mall.

OCA plans party in Salem

According to the State Fairgrounds Office in Salem, the Oregon Citizens Alliance has made reservations to use those facilities this summer. The group plans to meet there on July 18. Sources speculate that the right-wing group plans to hold its convention at that time, possibly to prepare endorsements for candidates in the November elections. As usual, the OCA was unavailable for comment to a *Just Out* query.



Springfield ordinance faces initial challenges

"These are offensive things to conservative people," says Larry Allwander, the Lane County director of the Oregon Citizens Alliance. The "things" Allwander and the OCA do not condone are the books *Heather Has Two Mommies*, *Daddy's Roommate*, and *The Duke Who Outlawed Jellybeans*. The former two books were donated to the Public Library of Springfield by OUTPAC and the newly named anti-OCA group, the Traditional Families' Values Coalition. The third book has been on the shelves of the library since March. The two groups also staged a public reading of the books in the Springfield Utility Office on June 18 in an event billed as one to "facilitate, promote, and encourage homosexuality," says Scott Seibert of OUTPAC.

Seibert adds, "Once people see the books for themselves they'll laugh. They are the most innocuous books imaginable." Lane County OCA officials apparently don't view the books as such, and immediately denounced the donations. The OCA said it would enter the dispute only if a Springfield citizen were to formally challenge the books, according to Allwander. "[We] would take it all the way to the United States Supreme Court, if necessary," said Allwander, indicating that the OCA would willingly finance a major lawsuit.

OCA gets the ax (again)

This time the Oregon Citizens Alliance was banned from one of its major "digs," Clackamas

Town Center. Judge Raymond Bagley Jr. barred all petitioners from collecting signatures for 10 days. Clackamas Town Center representatives said they had received over 140 calls from people complaining about the OCA petition gatherers, and that businesses were suffering as a result.

Clackamas Town Center could use a few supportive calls about now. Call 653-6913.

Librarians show solid support

The Oregon Library Association, and its members, jumped into the fight against the OCA's statewide initiative campaign.

In news conferences in Corvallis, Springfield and Portland, the association announced its fight.

Ginnie Cooper, director of the Multnomah County Library, said members of the board feared that "basic civil rights would be taken away by the OCA initiative."

The group had numerous books on display to illustrate the depth of written works that would be banned if the OCAs initiative were to become law. Some of the books shown were children's books, books for teens and classics by Walt Whitman.

United Springfield

Simultaneously with the enactment of the new anti-gay rights ordinance, a group of Springfield citizens have started a petition drive to put a measure on the November ballot that would repeal the charter amendment. To get the measure on the ballot, petitioners need to collect 1,928 signatures by July 22, says the City Recorder's office.

Jesse Maine, a member of the city planning commission, is the chief petitioner. Maine and 17 supporters, who include City Councilor Bruce Berg and former planning commission member Greg Shaver, have formed a group known as United Springfield.

The group will work to have their measure replace the Oregon Citizens Alliance's charter amendment that was approved by voters on May 19. United Springfield's measure seeks a "compromise" for the nearly 54 percent of Springfield voters who approved the amendment. If passed, the OCA's amendment would be repealed, but a citywide vote would be required before any new group would be granted civil rights protection.

"Selective Shopping" a wise investment

In response to the recent passage of the Oregon Citizens Alliance's anti-gay rights ballot measure 20-08 in Springfield, a group of local community activists have inaugurated what they term a "selective shopping" campaign. As part of the campaign, supportive businesses can place a small sign in their window which simply states: "This Establishment Honors Diversity." "The signs, provided free to any interested business, encourages all individuals who are concerned about the current state of human and civil rights in Lane County to patronize those businesses which have recognized the value of diversity within our community," according to Alan Gossett, spokesperson for the community coalition sponsoring the campaign.

"We see this as an extension of 'ethical investing' which has been going on for years for environmental and 'global' human rights issues," Gossett said in reference to the campaign.

According to Gossett, the Selective Shopping campaign is a very 'proactive' step in the fight for equal rights in our society.

For further information about how you or your company can participate in the Selective Shopping campaign, contact Gossett at 343-3838.