

letters

Rumor control

To the Editor:

This letter is to clarify some confusion in the community regarding organizations and their structures in the wake of proposed Ballot Measure 9. We act as spokespersons for No on Hate, Portland Steering Committee, and therefore can directly correct misperceptions regarding our group.

The NOH Steering Committee decided at its Nov. 8, 1992, meeting that the community should decide the future of the No On Hate PAC. On Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1992, 6:30 pm at Room 298, Smith Hall, PSU, No on Hate will have a community meeting to discuss the future, and to release the current financial report.

As of this writing, there have been no mergers between NOH and any other group.

This is a time of transition for all of us. Groups will alter and refocus, individuals will change affiliations, and new strategies will develop in our ever-necessary fight against bigotry. There is and will be a place in the movement for each one of us, and each one of us will be needed.

KC (Carla L.) Hanson
Sue Johnston
Portland

It's not over

To the Editor:

It's not over! We may have won, but it's not over!

We need to find a way to stop the OCA in their tracks.

Personally I'm writing a letter to our new president, reminding him of the tremendous support we as a people offered and gave him. I'm encouraging him to set a federal standard ASAP to keep the OCAs and Christian Coalitions out of other peoples lives. No discrimination, period.

Thank you to all of us who worked so very hard on the defeat of Measure 9. Thank you to all who went the extra miles; who bandaged their fingers and hands from blisters and the paper cuts; those who grew new calluses from dialing phone number after phone number; to the brave ones who stood on bridges and corners with No on 9 signs; the ones who went south to brave the masses of the Yes on 9.

Thank you all. But it's not over!

Fran Wilson
Portland

Measure 9 election fraud

To the Editor:

There were many nasty campaigns in the past election, but none compared to the one waged by the OCA over Measure 9 for blatant election fraud. In a state that prosecutes candidates for exaggerated Voter's Pamphlet claims and letters, the silence on the intentionally misleading and slanderous material distributed by the OCA is bewildering.

The OCA linked homosexuality with the 11 most notorious serial killers. The OCA claimed that schoolchildren are recruited by gay teachers, although there have been no instances of sexual misconduct between gay teachers and students. The OCA told parents that homosexuality is taught in public schools, even though State School Superintendent Norma Paulus publicly denied this. The OCA smeared the Child Services Division by charging that they placed children with homosexual child molesters, even though the CSD has never had problems in the 10 gay homes that they have used. The OCA has published laughably outrageous statistics in the state Voter's Pamphlet regarding what gay men do between the sheets, with no supporting evidence. Homosexuality was tied to NAMBLA, which was featured promi-

nently in their articles and videos, although there is no chapter of NAMBLA in Oregon.

Pedophilia is already illegal, and there has never been any evidence that links homosexuality with pedophilia.

Secretary of State Phil Keisling is in charge of elections. He was a vocal opponent of Measure 9 throughout the campaign. However, now that we have helped re-elect him, it is time for Secretary Keisling to execute his appointed duties. A complete investigation into the Measure 9 campaign would expose the lies the OCA has spread throughout the state. The rift created in Oregon by the OCA will never close until this misinformation about homosexuality is corrected.

If you would like an investigation to begin, you are encouraged to write to: Secretary of State Phil Keisling, State Capitol Building, Salem, OR 97310.

Larry Taylor
Portland

New initiative

To the Editor:

The OCA has made it quite clear that they will not stop, even when they lose. I am therefore proposing a method by which they can be stopped.

Submit a ballot initiative as follows:

No ballot initiative or referendum can be used to deprive Oregon residents of their basic constitutional civil rights as contained in Article 1 of the Oregon Constitution unless those revisions deprive all Oregon residents equally.

Obviously some legal expert would need to look over the wording, but I believe that the intent is clear and that the vast majority of Oregonians would support it.

Charles Eggen
Portland

Coming out supportive

To the Editor:

Thanks for your superb efforts in defeating Measure 9. I'm not thrilled, though, that 9 failed. Instead, I feel only temporary relief, since the purveyors of hate will be back. I'm very saddened that over 564,000 Oregonians voted "yes" for bigotry and "yes" for discrimination.

Yet, likely some long-range good has come out of this battle. All over Oregon we forged alliances with people who believe in the essential decency and worth of all people, including gays and lesbians. I hope that we keep those alliances alive, do more outreach and bridge-building and work even harder to extend equal civil and human rights and equal opportunity to all oppressed peoples.

Unlike how we've treated one another in the past, during this campaign we cut ourselves a lot of slack. I pray we continue to do so in the future. This year we really valued our community's diversity—diversity in outness, in political involvement, in political correctness, in financial support and in reaction and rage. We need to foster a climate of non-judgmental understanding of our entire community. We are all in this war together, and we need to stand together to ward off the attacks that are coming.

Finally, I want to commend the courage and leadership of the Portland Lesbian Choir and the Portland Gay Men's Chorus. Both sang in Klamath Falls, Coos Bay and, yes, Springfield! The groups rode buses, sang, ate, socialized and truly harmonized together in a terrific display of unity.

Thanks again for your vigilance and your exposure of the reactionary right. May we continue to win these battles so that in our lifetimes, the war will be won!

Sid Galton
Portland



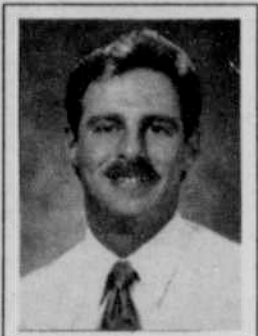
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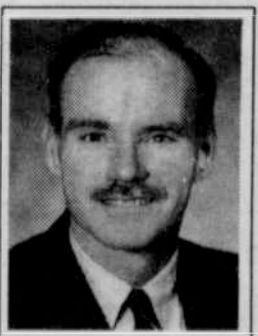
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