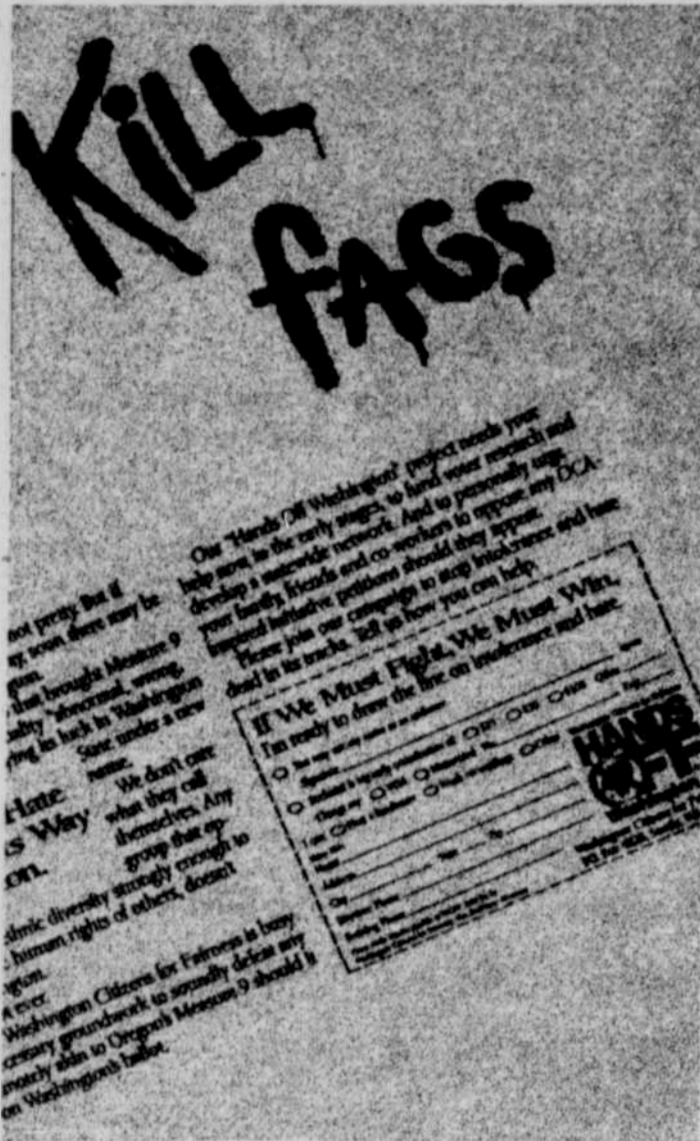


## STRATEGIES



### Clark County Democrats take a stand

Members of Washington's Clark County Democratic Central Committee voted recently to support Hands Off Washington and civil rights legislation introduced by openly gay State Rep. Cal Anderson. Hands Off Washington is working to counter efforts of OCA-style groups in Washington State. The bill introduced by Anderson, and co-sponsored by Val Ogden (D-Vancouver) would add sexual orientation to existing statutes prohibiting discrimination.

"Our party," said Clark County Chairman Harold Abbe, "stands for equality, and thus we include any and all who will join with us. All are welcome. The quality of life is better without hate. Put the absence of hate on your list of things we need."

The Hands Off Washington campaign is currently running a striking ad in *The Oregonian*. The words "kill fags" are scrawled across the top of the ad, followed by an explanation of the campaign.

The Jackson County Human Rights Coalition PAC boasts a mailing list of 4,000 people. It formed three years ago, in response to a racist incident. The group can be reached through its voice mail number: 770-1761.

The OCA is fighting seriously for Southern Oregon. It has deployed Scott Lively to reside in a small town near the border between Jackson and Josephine counties.

### Court rules to allow OCA vote in Klamath Falls

Washington County Circuit Court Judge Gayle A. Nachtigal ruled in April that the Oregon Citizens Alliance's current initiative attempt in Klamath Falls meets state requirements. Nachtigal did correct the proposed ballot title, and said in her ruling that the initiative may indeed violate the Oregon Constitution, but her court couldn't rule on that.

Klamath resident Janet Boytano filed a lawsuit to keep the initiative off the ballot. The suit charged that the ballot title was insufficient, and the subject inappropriate for an initiative. Her lawyer, Phil Studenberg, says an appeal is planned. Meanwhile, the initiative could still appear on the ballot, if the OCA succeeds in gathering enough signatures. If Boytano wins, he says, the initiative would not become law even if it passed. Studenberg is also asking Nachtigal to clarify parts of her ruling.

"We didn't feel she addressed the issues we raised," he explained.

Nachtigal did express concern as to whether the

initiative was constitutional. According to Studenberg, an initiative must win an election before a constitutional challenge can be filed in court.

"The city's administration or application of this petition, should it pass, may prove to be unconstitutional, as may the amendment itself. The constitutionality of the amendment is not a matter ripe for judicial review at this time," Nachtigal said in her ruling.

### Cities fare better than Linn County

While voters in Albany and Lebanon won't be faced with a city vote on the Oregon Citizens Alliance's anti-gay ballot measure, they will vote on a county version of the measure. In Lebanon, the ballot has been derailed by a lawsuit filed by attorney Kathryn McNannay. The lawsuit asks the Linn County Circuit Court to order Lebanon's elections officer not to put the initiative on the ballot because it is "an unconstitutional attempt to pre-empt existing state law," and "an inappropriate use of the initiative process." The city council has asked Lebanon City Attorney Tom McHill to defend the initiative. The soonest the OCA initiative could appear on that ballot would be Sept. 21.

In Albany, the city was still counting signatures for the September ballot at press time. According to Finance Director Gary Holliday, the city council is opposed to the initiative because the subject is not appropriate for a city charter.

The initiative will appear on the Linn County ballot June 29. Linn County Communities for Unity is working with Support Our Communities PAC. Julie Davis of Rep. Gail Shibley's office has also met with the group. Linn County Communities for Unity has elected a steering committee and is working to become a PAC, according to Heather Weldon, events coordinator.

Weldon says the group is planning a get-out-the-vote campaign, focusing on door-to-door canvassing and phone banking. An important strategy for Linn County will be identifying which voters cast "no" votes on Ballot Measure 9, and encouraging them to get to the polls and do it again.

"We're feeling really positive," Weldon commented.

Linn County Communities for Unity has a core group of about a dozen.

### SB 34 over first hurdle

The Senate Judicial Committee and the State Senate have approved SB 34, which would extend civil rights protection on the basis of sexual orientation.

### OCA to announce new hate wave

So, if you're looking for something to do on Thursday, May 6, at 10 am, how about showing up for the Oregon Citizens Alliance's press conference. It will be held at its "state office," which is located at 8651 SW Salish Lane, Wilsonville. The OCA will be announcing its new "Stop Special Rights" statewide initiative. The title may lead one to think that the OCA is going to produce a significant initiative concerning abolishing special privileges for the dominant class, or legislation which addresses institutionalized iniquities in our state. Wrong! It's the same old pathetic whining they do: "Queers want civil rights and it scares us." Well, good grief! We're expected to keep suffering because they are scared of us? The entire state of Oregon is supposed to foot the bill because they are scared? Is that healthy? Wouldn't that make everyone co-dependent to the members of the OCA?

There are a lot of things that I'm afraid of, and I would love to have a political PAC that would devote hours to appeasing my fears. If this sounds outrageous to you, it is, and this is what Lon and his band of unhappy people are attempting to do.

The Senate passed it on a vote of 18-12. The bill now moves on to the House. There is speculation about whether or not House Speaker Larry Campbell will let the bill out of committee for a floor vote. Campbell killed a similar bill last legislative session by not allowing it out of committee.

Labor Commissioner Mary Wendy Roberts sponsored the bill, which would offer civil rights protection in areas such as housing, employment and civil rights.

### OCA turns in signatures

The Oregon Citizens Alliance has turned in signatures in Crook, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine and Linn counties, as well as in Hermiston, Lebanon, Medford, Prineville and Pendleton, for 'sons of 9' local initiatives.



In Prineville, OCA organizers turned in only 189 signatures, some of which were not valid. The number needed was 464. According to city officials, the OCA must start all over again if it wants to try for the September ballot, and can't use any signatures already turned in. The OCA may be short of signatures in Pendleton as well; in Crook county, the OCA turned in just 66 more signatures than needed.

The news from southern Oregon was not so good. In Douglas, Jackson and Josephine counties,

the OCA turned in twice the number of signatures needed to get on the ballot.

Organizers had previously turned in signatures in Klamath county, Canby, Cornelius and Junction City.

### Josephine County to vote on OCA initiative in June

The Oregon Citizens Alliance's anti-gay initiative will be on the June 29 ballot in Josephine County, but not on the city ballot in Grants Pass. According to Grants Pass City Attorney Ulys Stapleton, neither the city nor the county has taken a position on the issue. No legal challenges have been filed either, he said.

The Josephine County Human Rights Alliance has launched an intensive get-out-the-vote campaign, according to activist Sky Blue. That group is working with both the Rural Organizing Project and Support Our Communities PAC. SOC PAC organizer Renee Delappe has moved to Grants Pass to work with local activists in Josephine, Jackson, Klamath and Douglas Counties.

Grants Pass OCA supporters have been focusing their energies on picketing and telephoning the local paper, *The Daily Courier*, for running the comic strip "For Better or Worse." The strip has dealt with gay youth recently.

### Clerical confusion delays OCA initiative in Jackson County

When Oregon Citizens Alliance members in Jackson County turned in petitions for the anti-gay initiative, they had enough signatures, and met the deadline for a June election. There was just one pesky detail that hadn't been taken into account. The county commission, not the elections division or the OCA, sets dates for elections. The commission didn't call an election for June, and might not.

According to County Clerk Kathy Beckett, the county commission might wait until the May 1994 elections to put the OCA initiative on the ballot. The City of Medford faces similar bureaucratic snafus. The OCA didn't turn in enough signatures for the city's June ballot. But because of confusion between the city and the OCA, those signatures will count towards the total needed to put the initiative on the September ballot. Normally, when a petitioner turns in insufficient signatures, the next attempt must start from scratch. The soonest that Jackson County and Medford could face an OCA initiative is on a mail-in ballot September 21.

Donna Taylor, president of the Jackson County Human Rights Coalition, isn't at all disturbed by the delays. They give her group more time to organize its campaign. The group has been working with Support Our Communities PAC to develop strategy. The plans, according to Taylor, are to focus on a neighbor-to-neighbor approach, with volunteers going door-to-door, and hosting block parties. Another goal is have all brochures available in Spanish and English. Radio and television spots featuring local community leaders are also planned. Taylor is optimistic about the campaign.

"I really think we have a lot of yes-on-9 voters who are persuadable," she said, noting that the OCA's cries of 'special rights' had misled many people. But there is no shortage of volunteers to clarify the issues. "We have people complaining we don't give them enough to do," Taylor laughed. "That tells you a lot about our campaign."

The coalition could have sued the city to prevent the OCA from using signatures turned in for a June ballot toward the requirement for a September ballot. The coalition decided to focus instead on the initiative's constitutionality.

"We're confident we could win if we did [file suit]," Taylor explained. "But we don't want to follow the example of our opponents in wasting taxpayers' money. We really want to save the taxpayers' money."

Ariel Waterwoman

compiled by Irene K. Hislop