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# steppin' out



PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

*Just Out* welcomes Charles Moose as the City of Portland's new police chief. Moose has marched in uniform with us in Lesbian and Gay Pride parades for the past few years. We are confident of his continued support for the diverse sexual-minority community. In selecting Moose for the job, Mayor Vera Katz said, "I selected Charles Moose because of his proven record in developing and implementing community-policing concepts, because of his demonstrated ability to fight neighborhood crime and because of his leadership experience.... He has demonstrated a unique ability to bring together, to motivate and to work with widely diverse groups in the community, a talent that will serve him well as chief."

## editorial

# Hearings get underway

*Links between white supremacy, Larry Campbell, the Christian Coalition and the Oregon Citizens Alliance are quotable*

by Ariel Waterwoman

At press time, the House Judiciary Committee was finally beginning hearings on the merits of SB 34. Many feel it was the barrage of stories and editorials coming out in *The Oregonian* on top of the tremendous public pressure and the tenacity of Labor Commissioner Mary Wendy Roberts that finally pushed Rep. Del Parks into letting the hearings begin. Others think that the strong-arm tactics of Oregon Citizens Alliance Republicans created a backlash within the ranks of House Republicans. A recent editorial in *The Oregonian* acknowledged this when it challenged members of the House to "stop running scared."

House Speaker Larry Campbell was publicly pleading innocent while, apparently, holding SB 34 hostage behind the scenes. It seems Rep. Del Parks, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, has grown weary of being the "fall guy" for Campbell. Parks may also be trying to distance himself from the chilling scenario reported in *The Oregonian's* three-part series on the religious right's growing involvement in Oregon politics. There is an insidious casualness that incorporates the dogma of white male supremacy into the morning prayer sessions lead by Craig Campbell, Larry Campbell's son and political aide. These sessions are attended by members of the OCA, television personality Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition and some legislators.

"You have to think of yourselves as being part of a spiritual brotherhood. You are a chosen race. You are God's holy people, called out of darkness into God's light," informs young Campbell in the prayer meeting, as quoted in *The Oregonian*. These words have a legacy of hatred, lynching, genocide and rape supporting them. Each person in the progressive community needs to have this quote to show to people who are confused by the OCA's "Christian" camouflage, for this is ultimately what it's all about: "God's chosen race, God's holy people."

I believe that part of the reason SB 34 has progressed to the hearing stage is to distract people from the report of blatant white supremacy disguised as "Christianity" and dressed up as "morning prayers" inside our state Legislature. Our legislators need to be held accountable for turning their backs on white supremacist activity occurring within the heart of our state government. All the brouhaha about what queers do in bed is sure to act as a great distraction from this core issue.

It is heartening to see that SB 34 may finally have a chance to go to the floor of the House for a vote, though. It was delightful to watch OCA henchman Scott Lively get slapped down by Rep. Del Parks for threatening him during the hearing. Lively seems to have grown so comfortable with using intimidation as a tactic that he's forgotten he's not sitting in a small town's city council meeting scaring vulnerable community leaders. He's just a guppy in the ocean when it comes to threatening a legislator inside the state Capitol building.

As much as the OCA enjoys painting a picture of gays and lesbians as having a "militant agenda," it's become more and more obvious to the legislators who is actually threatening and intimidating them. Not queers, certainly. We're too busy trying to please everyone. We're also too busy working to create safe ways for communities to really explore the issues behind the OCA's distortions.

At the hearings, Katherine English entreated the committee to respect and affirm her inherent civil rights. Her dignity remained intact, and the dignity of the members of the committee remained intact. She didn't beg, nor did she threaten to hurt anyone. She spoke from her heart about personally vulnerable issues. When we have a chance to speak and be heard, our eloquence knows no bounds. There is a rightness to our cause that is undeniably just and fair. This rightness always shines through, and people cannot help but be moved by it.

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