

just out

volume 11 number 9

FREE

march 4, 1994

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SUMMER GET-AWAYS

Whether diving into Mexico's oceans, partying in Australia or exploring British Columbia, gay and lesbian travelers have many options for summer vacations.

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SOC it to 'em

Months before election day, SOC PAC is working diligently to tell Oregonians what the OCA's latest statewide measure is really about: discrimination and intolerance

by Pamela Lyons

When Measure 9 was defeated in November 1992, sexual minority communities and their supporters breathed a collective sigh of relief. In Portland, they danced and celebrated at a victory party at Montgomery Park. People felt they could get back to their everyday lives now that the statewide measure sponsored by the Oregon Citizens Alliance had been warded off.

Don't look now: They're ba-ack.

The OCA is out about Oregon, working to gather the 89,028 signatures it needs to put another discriminatory measure on the November 1994 state ballot. While Lon Mabon says the wording for this one is "toned down," Julie Davis, executive director of Support Our Communities Political Action Committee, says it would

have the same discriminatory effect that Measure 9 would have had. It might not matter at all how this measure is worded if a Marion County judge rules that it is unconstitutional, and can't appear on the ballot. But if that happens, the OCA could come back with yet another discriminatory measure, worded a little differently.

Out of all this political and legal mumbo-jumbo, one thing is clear: Queers and their supporters are in this for the long haul.

"We ran Measure 9 like it was a 100-yard dash," Davis said. "We gave every

ounce of energy to the effort, because we went into it thinking one election will

make it go away. But it didn't go away. It's becoming clearer we have to train like this is a marathon."

Leading the marathon is SOC PAC. With a strong commitment to grass-roots political organizing, the group is on the front lines of the statewide struggle and has been integral in assisting smaller rural communities battle the OCA in local elections. In the face of the exhaustion many felt after battling Measure 9, SOC PAC organized a wide base of support and a structure to directly challenge the OCA. Clearly, the OCA isn't going to disappear on its own, Davis said, but SOC PAC's goal is more than just battling Mabon and his



Julie Davis at Feb. 18 rally

PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

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