

OREGON'S POLITICAL COMING OUT

Continued from the previous page

said. "Then came Measure 9, which drew more people out of the closet."

Coming out as a public official requires consideration about the consequences, Wooten said. Wooten's district is not as progressive as either Shibley's or Eighmey's. She chose the Right to Privacy's annual fund-raising dinner in Portland last October to be open about her sexual orientation, she said, so that she could use the next seven months to show her constituents that she was the same person as before.

For Carpenter, who has worked on international trade legislation and is an international trade analyst for Nike, coming out publicly was about being truthful in his campaign. "It was more or less a sense of honesty I feel," he said. "It's important that we, as gay people, step out and show that we are just as effective as straight people."

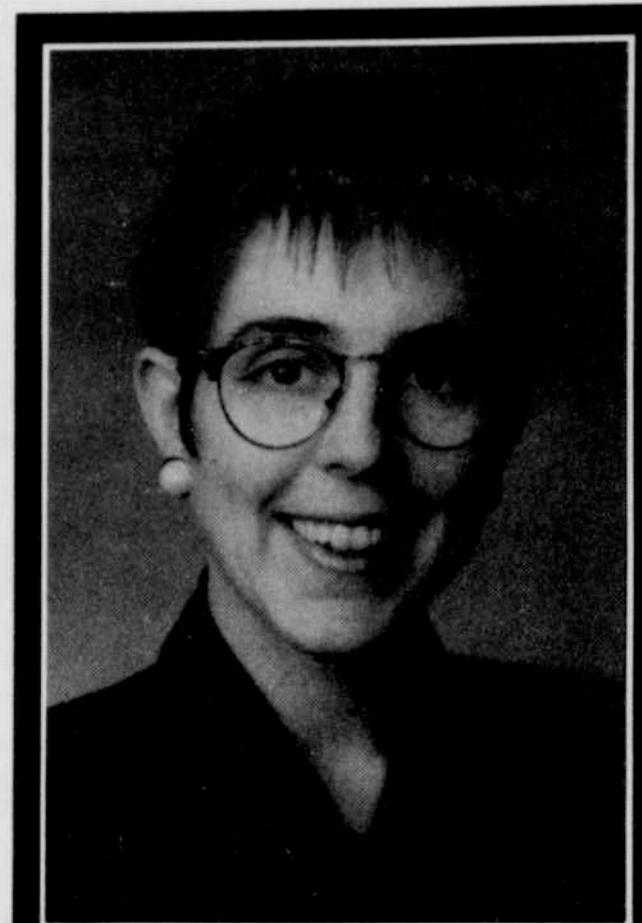
Contributions and clout from the Right to Privacy, which was formed in 1981, have been another catalyst for bringing sexual minorities and their supporters to the forefront of Oregon politics. This year, RTP will parcel out \$100,000 to candidates, between the primary and general election. For the May election, RTP gave \$5,000 to Mary Wendy Roberts' re-election campaign for Labor Commissioner; \$2,500 to both Shibley and Neal; and \$1,000 each to Carpenter, Eighmey and John Kitzhaber, a candidate for governor. Wooten received \$1,500 and Brown received \$1,000.

"Right to Privacy certainly has a lot of clout," Wayborne said. "There are a lot of PACs around the country, but [RTP seems] to have gone way beyond everyone's standards."

RTP holds a fund-raising dinner in Portland each year, the Lucille Hart Dinner. Last year, Mary Wendy Roberts, Gov. Barbara Roberts and former state Sen. Frank Roberts shared the Lucille Hart Award for their efforts on behalf of civil rights for sexual minorities.

"RTP has been around for so long now," Shibley said. "It continues to play a crucial role. It would be difficult to imagine the organization not being there."

The election of queer and queer-supportive candidates may further efforts to gain civil rights through legislation. Eighmey said that he, along with others, plans on introducing a bill that would protect the civil rights of sexual minorities. Last legislative session, Senate Bill 34 was introduced by Mary Wendy Roberts but did not make it to the floor for a vote, in the Republican-controlled House. Eighmey said he would push to have the bill put to a vote, so that the opinions of all House



Kate Brown

the recent ruling by Marion County Judge Rodney Miller that said the "Son of 9" covers more than one subject and cannot appear on the November ballot, the OCA is continuing to expand its political agenda. "We have a lot of stuff to do to unhinge this," Davis said. "The OCA will always be there. We have to continue to believe they have the capacity to [pass a statewide measure]."

Despite the efforts of the Oregon Citizens Alliance over the past four years, sexual minorities have forged a position in the Oregon political arena, in ways unmatched in most other states.

Coming out is one way—many would say the most basic and productive way—to fight the influence of the OCA and to further civil rights. "The most compelling way for people to support basic civil rights for gays and lesbians is

by knowing someone who is gay or lesbian," Shibley said in a recent *Oregonian* article.

Coming out as an elected official, in the public spotlight, can demonstrate to a large base of voters that sexual minorities are just regular people doing their jobs, like anyone else. Kate Brown decided that now was the perfect time to be open about her sexual identity—she has come out to her parents, and a recent *Oregonian* article reported that she is bisexual. "It felt real good," she said. "One guy came up to me and said, 'That took a lot of guts.' I was really gratified by the support I got."

RIGHT TO PRIVACY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



VOTERS GUIDE

Endorsements for the '94 May Primary

CONGRESS

1st Dist.: Elizabeth Furse, D
2nd Dist.: Sue Kupillas, D
3rd Dist.: Ron Wyden, D
4th Dist.: Peter DeFazio, D
5th Dist.: John Ball, D

OREGON GOVERNOR:

John Kitzhaber

LABOR COMMISSIONER:

Mary Wendy Roberts

PUBLIC

INSTRUCTION: Norma Paulus

STATE SENATE

Dist. 1: No Endorsement
Dist. 3: Robert Shook, D
Ted Calouni, R
Dist. 5: Jeannette Hamby, R
Dist. 9: Randy Leonard, D
Dist. 12: Dave McTeague, D
Dist. 13: No Endorsement
Dist. 14: Jay Watts, D
Dist. 16: Mike Montgomery, D
Dist. 17: Tricia Smith, D
Dist. 18: Cliff Trow, D
Dist. 19: No Endorsement
Dist. 20: Peter Sorenson, D
Dist. 21: Bill Dwyer, D
Dist. 22: Karsten Rasmussen, D
Dist. 26: Dan Coefer, D

STATE HOUSE

Dist. 1: Tony Federici, D
Dist. 2: Tim Josi, D
Dist. 3: Marcus Simantel, D
Dist. 4: Terry Thompson, D
Dist. 5: Mary Whitmore, D
Dist. 6: Craig Irwin, D
Dist. 7: Jeanne Atkins, D
Chuck Carpenter, R
Dist. 8: Mary Alice Ford, R
Dist. 9: Tom Brian, R
Dist. 10: No Endorsement
Dist. 11: Anita Rasmussen, D

Dist. 12: Gail Shibley, D
Dist. 13: Kate Brown, D
Dist. 14: George Eighmey, D
Dist. 15: Lisa Naito, D
Dist. 16: Frank Shields, D
Dist. 17: Michael Fahey, D
Dist. 18: Margaret Carter, D
Dist. 19: Avel Gordley, D
Dist. 20: Barbara Wiggins, D
Dist. 21: No Endorsement
Dist. 22: Sharon Wylie, D
Dist. 23: Kurt Schrader, D
Dist. 24: Johnathan Nelson, D
Dist. 25: No Endorsement
Dist. 26-28: No Endorsement
Dist. 29: Marilyn Dell, D
Dist. 30: No Endorsement
Dist. 31: Bryan Johnson
Dist. 32: No Endorsement
Dist. 33: Peter Courtney, D
Dist. 37: No Endorsement
Dist. 38: Hank Vredenburg, D
Dist. 39: Jim Edmondson, D
Dist. 40: Floyd Prozanski, D
Dist. 41: Cynthia Wooten, D
Dist. 42: Lee Beyer, D
Dist. 43: Chuck Ivey, D
Dist. 44: Tony Corcoran, D
Dist. 47: Mike Lehman, D
Dist. 48: No Endorsement
Dist. 49: Eleanor Edmondson, D
Dist. 50: No Endorsement
Dist. 51: No Endorsement
Dist. 52: Steve Hauck, D
Dist. 53: No Endorsement
Dist. 54: Bruce Abernethy, D
Dist. 55-60: No Endorsement

METRO

Pos. 1: Bob Morris
Pos. 2: Ralph Groener
Pos. 3: No Endorsement
Pos. 4: No Endorsement
Pos. 5: Jeff Rogers
Pos. 6: No Endorsement
Pos. 7: Patricia McCaig
Exec: Mike Burton
Auditor: Hank Higgins

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Comm: Gary Hansen
Sheriff: Vera Poole
Exec: Bev Stein

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Comm: Judie Hammerstad

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Comm: Bob Allen

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Comm. #2: Jeff Hyde

LANE COUNTY

Comm: Bill Morrisette
Austin Colcord

CITY OF PORTLAND

Comm: (Dual Endorsement)
Fred Neal
Earl Blumenauer
Comm: Gretchen Kafoury

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

Ward 1: Tim Lane
Ward 4: (Dual Endorsement)
Peter Wotton
Laurie Swanson-Gribskov
Ward 5: No Endorsement
Ward 6: No Endorsement

OREGON SUPREME COURT

Position 4: Edward Fadely
Position 6: Wallace Carson, Jr.

OREGON COURT OF APPEALS

Position 10: Rex Armstrong

CIRCUIT COURT

4th District Dept. 12: Janice Wilson

DISTRICT COURT

Coos County Dept. 2: Paula Bechtold

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Dept. 9: David Gemant

MULTNOMAH CO.

Dept. 10: Merri Souther Wyatt

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