



PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

March for Jesus not a political event

The March for Jesus drew a reported 11,000 participants in downtown Portland June 25. The worldwide event involved people from every time zone. In these times of using Jesus to bash lesbians and gay men, many feared it was an event sponsored by the Oregon Citizens Alliance. In fact it was coordinated by the normally OCA-friendly Sunnyside Foursquare Church.

The Stonewall Defenders, a group organized by

Radical Women, were present to protest any involvement by the OCA. They marched around the North Park Blocks with signs and chanted anti-OCA slogans.

Though there were several homophobic participants, evidenced by their placards, they were discouraged from participating and were pushed to the fringes. OCA members tried to put up signs early in the morning while marchers were arriving, and were politely asked to leave by march organizers.

Truly a cross-cultural event, prayers were offered in many languages, including English, Chinese, Spanish and sign language.

A call-to-action rally planned

Support Our Communities PAC is sponsoring a rally July 8 at 5 pm at Pioneer Courthouse Square. Friday, July 8, is the initiative filing deadline in Oregon. SOC PAC is particularly interested in whether the Oregon Citizens Alliance will gather enough signatures to get its discriminatory measures on the ballot. Reports are conflicting as to whether the group will have the needed number.

Speakers at the rally will include Gov. Barbara Roberts, SOCPAC Executive Director Julie Davis, and Don McClave, head of the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

The rally is a call to action for supporters to block the OCA initiatives and, in the event the OCA does not gather enough signatures, it will be a call for the creation of pro-active strategies to counter the OCA and its efforts through 1996.

A Marion County judge has ruled the current OCA initiative unconstitutional on the grounds that it covers two different and distinct topics. The Oregon Constitution requires that ballot measures refer to a single issue. The ruling would keep the initiative off the ballot. The OCA is appealing the decision and has continued to gather signatures even though the effort may be moot.

A powerful impact

"The Bill of Rights is not protection against oppression," said Judy Jordet, as she addressed an anti-oppression workshop in Bend in May. Jordet led a group of 20 citizens through exercises and discussion of the differences between prejudice and oppression. The workshop was part of the Bend Anne Frank Project, a citywide event focused on the importance of remembering the Holocaust. The anti-oppression workshop was sponsored by the Deschutes County Coalition on Human Dignity, which is also one of the sponsors of the Anne Frank Project.

Jordet told workshop participants that it is important to recognize the four primary ingredients of oppression: that it is pervasive, routine, institutionalized and systematic. Prejudice involves feelings and attitudes that individuals hold toward groups they have scapegoated or stereotyped as

less human. Oppression occurs when those feelings are given legitimacy by society.

In the last part of the workshop, participants analyzed the ways in which the media, schools and political structures promote systems of advantage within this country. Jordet showed how oppression in the United States continues with the law's blessing and that the Bill of Rights will not prevent this systematic and institutionalized prejudice. She encouraged people not to rely on the Bill of Rights and to continue fighting for laws that control oppression.

Her message was an appropriate addition to the touring presentation of placards and art which retells the story of the Holocaust. Part of the exhibit focuses on the history of prejudice in Oregon, including the oppression of Jews, African Americans, women and sexual minorities. Churches and social groups from around Bend have contributed time and money to the Anne Frank Project. The exhibit left a powerful impact on all who toured it.

Nevada gives the boot to OCA-style discrimination

Earlier this year Lon Mabon took his brand of discrimination to Nevada, where he expected an easy alliance.

He was wrong.

Though Nevada is known as a conservative state, its population has a live-and-let-live attitude. And they don't like outsiders coming in and telling them what to do. An hour after a newspaper story reported the creation of the Nevada Citizens Alliance, Nevada's democratic governor Bob Miller opposed it in a statewide press release. Members of both political parties joined him.

Thus began a bipartisan effort to thwart the Nevada Citizens Alliance. By the filing deadline, the organization was approximately 20,000 signatures short of placing its initiative on the statewide ballot.

The figurehead of the Nevada Citizens Alliance, Daisy Stanley, blamed the failure on a late start and "hateful and slanderous" media coverage. She says they'll be back in 1996.

Compiled by Kake Huck and Renée LaChance

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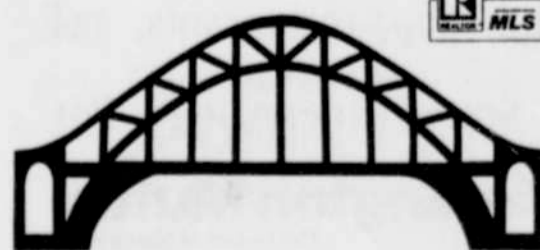
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