

sometimes think the only way to defeat an anti-gay initiative is by making the issue more 'palatable' by ignoring gay men and lesbians. That's simply not true."

McKnight says LACROP's activists, most of whom come from New York, were invited to northern Idaho by the Palouse Lesbian Avengers.

In other election news, the passage of two statewide campaign-spending-reform initiatives may affect how Oregon's largest gay and lesbian rights political action committee does business.

Ballot Measure 6 bars contributions to candidates from people or groups outside Oregon or outside a particular district the candidate is running in; it also prohibits passing contributions to a candidate from nonresidents through district residents. Ballot Measure 9 limits contributions by individuals and businesses to statewide and legislative candidates, and limits political action committee contributions to candidates.

According to Greg Jackson, executive director of Right To Privacy PAC, Ballot Measure 6 could make it more difficult for the organization to raise money for gay- and lesbian-supportive candidates.

"Currently people simply write out checks to RTP PAC and we decide how much money to contribute to certain candidates," he says. "Now we can't do that. Instead, we'll have to set up a network where we educate voters about gay-supportive candidates who may be running in their districts. Hopefully they will in turn write out their checks for that candidate, but send it to us. We'll bundle the contributions and then hand that bundle off to the candidate."

Bundling is a fund-raising technique used by many groups including the Victory Fund, a national organization that contributes to gay and lesbian political candidates. Bundling essentially allows a group such as the Washington, D.C.-based Victory Fund to collect many individual contributions (from across the nation) to a candidate, bundle those contributions, and give that bundle to the candidate in the name of the organization.

"This way, we can still say that all of this money came from the gay and lesbian community," explains Jackson.

If Ballot Measure 6 is deemed constitutional (many are skeptical that it will be), any contributions received by a candidate would have to come from a resident living within the boundaries of the candidate's electoral district.

"What we'll have to do is work more closely with a group like the Rural Organizing Project or Oregon Speak Out Project to connect with citizens living in each electoral district," says Jackson. "Due to Measure 6, those individual contacts are now crucial to us."

Candidates traditionally thought to be underdogs—particularly sexual minority and women candidates—tend to rely heavily upon contributions from national organizations which are not based in Oregon. Oregon state Reps. George Eighmey, Gail Shibley, Cynthia Wooten, and Chuck Carpenter—have all received contributions from the Victory Fund, which raises funds from among a national donor base for a selected list of gay and lesbian candidates. Under Ballot Measure 6, that national donor base is rendered virtually useless for candidates in Oregon.

As for Ballot Measure 9, Jackson says Right To Privacy is now limited to giving state legislative candidates \$100 and candidates for statewide office \$500 for each election; individuals, who were previously able to donate an unlimited amount to a political action committee, are now limited to \$100. (The restrictions do not apply to federal or ballot measure campaigns.) According to state elections officials, prior to Ballot Measure 9, there were no limits on how much an individual or political action committee could contribute to a candidate. Right To Privacy has raised and contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to candidates over the years.

Jackson says Right To Privacy's board will be discussing whether the organization should instead concentrate more on its educational arm, Right To Privacy Inc.

"We're now forced to take a closer look at what we can do and what we should be doing," he says.

Though both powerhouse and lesser-known Democrats were swept away throughout the nation in a Republican landslide during midterm elections last month, every gay, lesbian and bisexual incumbent—most of whom are Democrats—was re-elected, including four incumbent state representatives in Oregon.

"No longer can we say that openly gay and lesbian candidates cannot get elected and re-elected. No longer can we say that we are oppressed at the ballot box," says Ken Vincent, an aide to Sherry Harris, an openly lesbian African American member of the Seattle City Council. Vincent helped organize the 10th annual International Conference of Lesbian and Gay Elected and Appointed Officials held in Seattle Nov. 18 to 20. An estimated 100 gay and lesbian public officials attended.

Eighmey and Shibley, both Portland Democrats, and Wooten, a Democrat from Eugene, were on hand for the event.

"It was a great opportunity to meet gay and lesbian legislators from other states," says Eighmey. "There were healthy discussions about the need to respect diversity. I was really pleased that many of these folks refused to give in to the notion that we are helplessly at the hands of conservative Republicans. Many of us feel like



George Eighmey and Barbara Roberts

this is an opportunity to come together and build strong coalitions around issues, not political parties."

Finally, human rights activists from across the country will be on hand to honor outgoing Gov. Barbara Roberts—an outspoken proponent of lesbian and gay rights and co-chair of Americans Against Discrimination, a civil rights project of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest lesbian and gay rights organization.

"Barbara Roberts is the most respected public official in the country when it comes to the issue of lesbian and gay rights," says Terry Bean, an HRCF board member. "We have folks flying in from all over the country for this dinner because they realize how incredible she is."

Among those slated to show: outgoing HRCF head Tim McFeeley, former Clinton adviser David Mixner, author Barry Lopez, and, says Bean, "some surprise guests."

During her tenure as Oregon's chief executive, Roberts has forcefully and repeatedly spoken on behalf of civil rights for gay men and lesbians. She testified in favor of statewide gay and lesbian rights legislation, and has verbally chastised the OCA for its attacks on gay and lesbian citizens.

The dinner will be held Dec. 15 at the Oregon Convention Center. Tickets are \$50, and can be obtained by calling 635-7021 or 725-5067. The money raised will benefit the Frank Roberts Scholarship Fund. Frank Roberts, the governor's husband, was a longtime state senator and—like his wife—a strong voice for human rights. He died last year after a long battle with cancer.

FELLER AUTOWORKS

SPECIALIZING IN GERMAN AND SWEDISH AUTOMOBILES



- Quality, comprehensive care for your auto
- Conveniently located just minutes from downtown
- Open Tuesdays through Saturdays

BRING THIS AD FOR \$10.00 OFF ANY SERVICE

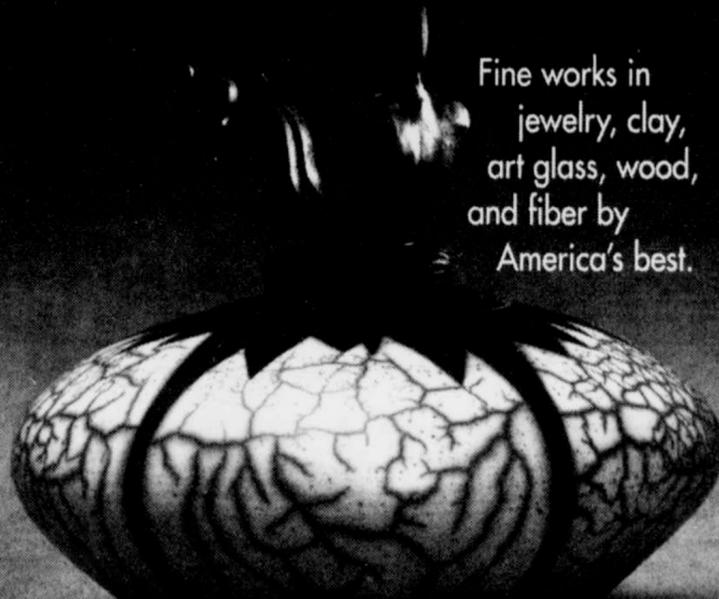
1114 SE CLAY

236-9202

THOMAS FELLER, MASTER CERTIFIED, AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE ENGINEER

DISCOVER THE FINE ART OF AMERICAN CRAFT

Fine works in jewelry, clay, art glass, wood, and fiber by America's best.



Sculptural clay vessels by Will and Kate Jacobson

The Northwest House
A Shop and Gallery in Portland, Oregon

Portland Airport
(503) 284-9929

901 S.W. Yamhill
(503) 223-9510

Washington Square
(503) 620-2243



STEVE BUCHERT
Sales Associate/ Realtor

Cronin & Caplan
Realty Group
Inc.

LET ME EARN YOUR BUSINESS

I work to combine professionalism with personal attention in all phases of real estate. Whether you're buying or selling, I provide extensive knowledge of neighborhoods and complete commitment to serving each of my client's individual needs.

SPECIALIZING IN ESTABLISHED NEIGHBORHOODS

For personal, professional service and a free consultation call:

(503) 220-1144 • Mobile: 970-3801