

Jason's Antiques
 Fine Furniture, Jewelry, Silver and Objets d'art
 622 Southwest 12th Avenue
 Portland, Oregon 97205
 (503) 242-2998
 1-800-306-2998
 Tues. - Fri., 11-6
 Sat., 12-4
 or by appointment
 VISA Mastercard
 • Buying Antiques •

CYCLING FUN MADE SIMPLE!
Bikes For FUN!
CICLO
 SPORT SHOP
 925 SW 10TH PORTLAND 227-3535
 91 S STATE LAKE OSWEGO 636-3521

SMUT! COMIX! WEIRDNESS!
 From vintage pin-up mags to unhealthy new funnybooks, we've got it all, and for all orientations! And to celebrate our opening, take 10% off everything in the store through June 30th with this ad! **CounterMedia**, 927 SW Oak (1/2 block from Powell's), 226-8141. Open 12-9, Tue-Sun.

COUNTER MEDIA

INTRODUCING "GAY AMERICAN COMPOSERS"!

More than a sexy cover and mood music, this disc features some of America's most respected composers along with some of today's newest talents. A surprising and enjoyable new look at American classical music. Featuring music by Ned Rorem, Lou Harrison, David Del Tredici, Lee Hoiby and many others!

NEW ON: C R i

GAY AMERICAN COMPOSERS

C R i

Sale Price \$12.99 CD

Be one of the first 10 people to purchase a copy of the Gay American Composers CD and receive a free Gay American Composers t-shirt. Offer limited to supplies on hand.

Classical Millennium

CLASSICAL MILLENNIUM 3144 E Burnside • Portland, OR 97214 • 231-8909
 MUSIC MILLENNIUM 801 NW 23rd • Portland, OR 97210 • 249-0163

◆ On sale through July 12th ◆

PHARR RIGHT

In her new book, local activist Suzanne Pharr outlines strategies for countering the politics of domination

by Kristine Chatwood

At the 1992 Republican National Convention an abrasive television commentator, who also happened to be a former speech writer for Richard Nixon, took the podium during prime time and proceeded to declare war on just about everyone in the United States who was not white, male, rich, heterosexual and rabidly Christian. As Patrick Buchanan's vitriolic words spewed from televisions across the country, many people—

which put thousands out of work; cutbacks in salaries and benefits; government tax write-offs and bail-outs; and companies moving jobs to foreign countries to take advantage of cheaper labor.

"Unjust economic systems," Pharr says, "foster social chaos and require the imposition of strong methods of control to keep order. Economic injustice requires oppression to maintain social stability."

Those in power maintain their power by pitting the powerless against one another. Although Pharr's book deals with current political and economic times, "divide and conquer" is a tried-and-true strategy. One centuries-old example of the success of this tactic is the "trouble" in Northern Ireland. The English, determined to hold on to their industrial base in Ulster, moved Protestant working-class Scots to Northern Ireland and put them in direct competition with Catholic working-class Irish. What is generally portrayed as a religious war began as a bitter struggle among natural allies for a limited piece of the economic pie.

Pharr sees the religious right—which she calls the "theocratic right"—as agents of big business. As corporate leaders wreak economic havoc, the theocratic right follows behind, providing a stabilizing force by "proposing to bring order to this chaos by providing an authoritarian vision and by diverting our attention away from corporate greed to instead focus scorn and indignation on groups struggling for inclusion as equal participants in society."



Suzanne Pharr

stunned by the viciousness of Buchanan's speech—wondered what had possessed George Bush to give this man a premier slot at the convention.

Almost as stunning as Buchanan's words were the cheers of the convention delegates when he declared a "cultural war" was afoot in the land. Where had Patrick Buchanan come from, and who were these people who were cheering him?

Many of the cheering delegates were the men and women who form the core of the so-called "religious right." Buchanan was a conservative columnist and commentator who spotted the rising power of the religious right in the Republican Party and jumped on the bandwagon. What at first appeared to be a small, fringe element of conservatism had now taken control of the GOP.

Members of the moderate wing of the GOP were not the only ones taken by surprise. As Suzanne Pharr points out in her new book, *In the Time of the Right: Reflections on Liberation*, "Though now entrenched in the political mainstream, the right has not always been taken seriously. However, over the past three decades they were developing strategies and building a base. There were many signs of their increasing presence and strength, but many of them were unrecognized or discounted by progressive people."

Pharr is a long-time activist for social justice and progressive politics who now lives in Portland. It was not until she traveled to Oregon from her home in Arkansas to help with the fight to defeat the Oregon Citizens Alliance's Ballot Measure 9, however, that Pharr began to put the pieces together and to "recognize that this is a well-organized army on the march." She decided to focus her work on the rise of the right. The result is this book: a primer on extreme right-wing politics in the latter part of the 20th century.

In just 122 pages Pharr explains her theory of domination politics, defines the right-wing agenda, discusses homophobia and racism and how the right wing uses both to divide and conquer, and finally, shares her thoughts on how the progressive movement might begin to build community and fight the right.

Pharr believes there are two kinds of politics: liberation politics and domination politics. Domination politics she defines as a politics where "the few seek to have power over the lives of the many, gaining it through systems of oppression and exploitation." She cites numbers illustrating the growing economic disparity between the rich and the poor, which according to Pharr, experienced a tremendous surge during the Reagan/Bush years. This she attributes to the Reagan tax breaks, which benefited the rich; corporate downsizing,

people's fears that there is not enough to go around, that if someone gets something, then someone else loses something. And so affirmative action becomes a program that robs white men of jobs; civil rights for lesbians and gay men become a threat to the rights and superiority of heterosexuals; and feminism becomes an instrument of emasculation.

Pharr concludes her book with a section on liberation politics, which she defines as "seeking social and economic justice for all people; supporting inclusion, autonomy, choice, wholeness; building and honoring relationships; developing individual and institutional integrity, responsibility and accountability; redefining and sharing power."

She outlines strategies useful for those who embrace liberation politics to counter, and hopefully, overcome the right, and calls upon progressive people from across the country to "create a multi-issue, multi-racial and multi-cultural liberation movement."

In the Time of the Right is a simple, easy-to-understand explanation of the political and cultural differences between progressives and the right. Things are presented in an either/or, black/white, good/bad construct. The book does not break any new theoretical ground, but it is an honest and heartfelt contribution to the current political discussion.

In the Time of the Right: Reflections on Liberation by Suzanne Pharr. Chardon Press, 1996; \$10.95 paper.
 Pharr will speak at a celebratory event marking publication of her book on Tuesday, June 25, from 7 to 9 pm at The Old Church, Southwest 11th Avenue and Clay Street in Portland. Thomas Lauderdale will perform.