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**LOCAL news**

**TRICKLEDOWN ECONOMICS**

*Continued from the cover*

Glanville says a percentage of the money raised by the HRC dinner is "not guaranteed" to find its way back to Oregon. "But our research has shown that we get back so much more" than is raised here, he tells *Just Out*.

According to Glanville, last year HRC pumped nearly \$60,000 into the (ultimately successful) campaigns of gay-friendly congressional candidates from Oregon and southwest Washington.

Oregon U.S. Reps. David Wu and Darlene Hooley, as well as Washington Rep. Brian Baird—all Democrats—were among the beneficiaries. HRC staffers were also dispatched to the region for a get-out-the-vote blitz.

Glanville also credits HRC with helping to secure about \$7.5 million in Ryan White CARE

tution: Ends Current Legal Protection by State on Basis of Homosexuality."

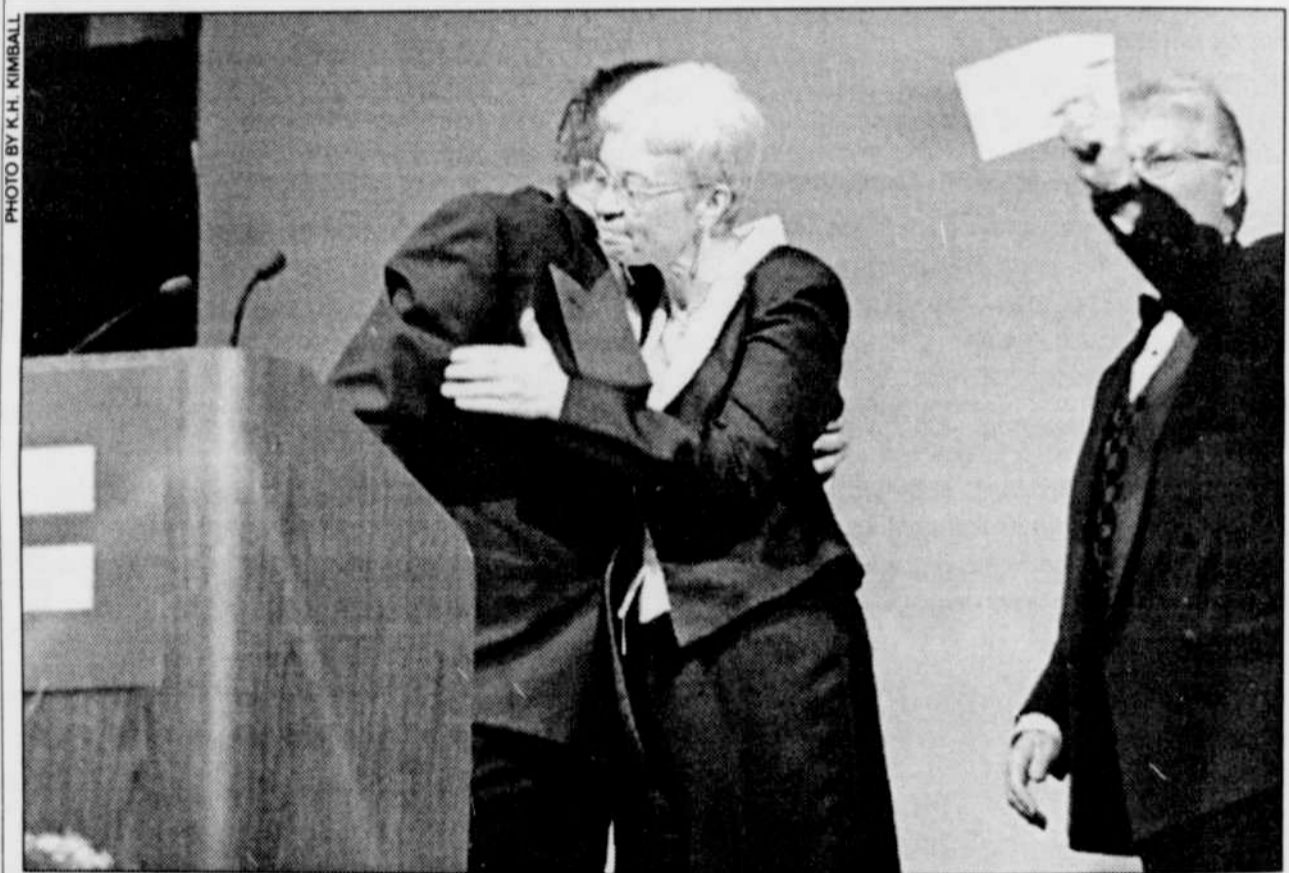
The measure would prohibit the "state from enacting [or] enforcing any law or policy granting legal protection or preference on basis of homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation, conduct or relationship." It's aimed for the November 2000 ballot.

Donna Red Wing, HRC's national field director, says she realizes that some people question the justice of a "national group coming into a local community and sucking out money."

"They wonder, 'Where did the money go?'" says Red Wing, who lived in Portland for many years and still owns a home in the City of Roses.

Like Glanville, she offers examples of how HRC's labors bolster the gay and lesbian community at the local level. She cites HRC's contributions—via both monetary and staff support—to gay-and-lesbian-friendly congressional candidates, as well as HRC's push for increases in HIV/AIDS-related funding.

Still, she notes that if protections were passed on a federal level, the seemingly relentless statewide battles—like those instigated by the OCA or anti-gay state lawmakers—would



At the Feb. 13 Human Rights Campaign dinner, Jean Harris (right) waves \$5,000 pledge to Basic Rights Oregon while BRO board vice chair Harriet Merrick (center) gets an embrace

Act funds for Oregon-based HIV and AIDS programs in 1998.

Still, one may feel that dollars raised in a local community should stay in that community—especially if that community is under fire.

Oregon could fit the bill, given the three anti-gay referrals in the state Legislature aimed at derailing a December state appellate court ruling that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and stipulates that all state and local governments in Oregon must offer spousal benefits to the same-sex domestic partners of their employees. (The six plaintiffs in that case, *Tanner vs. OHSU*, as well as their attorney, Carl Kiss, were honored at the HRC dinner.)

Meanwhile just days before the dinner, Oregon Citizens Alliance chair Lon Mabon and wife Bonnie resurfaced with a new anti-gay initiative.

If approved, the proposed constitutional amendment would decimate the legal protections garnered under the *Tanner* ruling.

The draft ballot title reads: "Amends Consti-

**According to Ron Glanville, last year HRC pumped nearly \$60,000 into the (ultimately successful) campaigns of gay-friendly congressional candidates from Oregon and southwest Washington.**

not need to be fought year in and year out.

Nevertheless, Red Wing, the former head of Portland's Lesbian Community Project and a longtime advocate for grass-roots organizing, says local and statewide support is imperative for national efforts to be successful.

"We all have our role and yet we all need each other," says Red Wing, who recently helped finance \$5,000 from HRC for Basic Rights Oregon, a statewide group that promotes gay and lesbian rights. BRO is heading up the lobbying efforts in Salem this session.

"We don't normally do that," says Red Wing, referring to the contribution to a statewide group, "because HRC focuses on the federal level."

Red Wing was slated to personally hand the check to Jean Harris, BRO's executive director, at the dinner, but was sidelined due to the flu and the American Airlines imbroglio.

"But the money was approved and I just have to send it," says Red Wing, still struggling to quash the bug.

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