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Ka-ching!

It's taken nearly a decade, but the payback finally begins

BY INGA SORENSEN

t was a crisp evening back on Oct. 8, 1991. Peacenik diners popped into Old Wives' Tales, an East Burnside bistro with a beloved Hungarian mushroom soup.

A block or so away, a substantially different crowd gathered near the Portland Foursquare Church.

The men looked dour, the women too, as they wore the stern faces of those preparing for battle.

This was a particularly special night, and the assembled knew it. Each had received an invitation to the premiere screening of the Oregon Citizens Alliance's new anti-gay video, Gay

Pride?, touted as "a key element in the campaign to stop the militant homosexual agen-

Parents were told not to bring their kids due to the perverse nature of the footage.

Inside, the sequestered listened attentively to anti-gay lectures by OCA officials Scott

Lively and Bill Casey.

Catherine Stauffer

Then they moved to the really good stuffthe viewing of a 40-minute video comprising footage from the 1991 San Francisco gay pride march and the 1987 national gay and lesbian rights march in Washington, D.C.

OCA bigwigs prefaced the screening by warning that "Portland will be San Francisco in 10 years if we don't do something about it now!"

Lights out.

The video honed in nearly exclusively on scenes of public nudity, female impersonators, and leather and SM enthusiasts.

Many times throughout the video, the faces of children were featured and then freeze-framed in contorted poses. One shot gave the subtle yet distinct impression that a gay father was attempting to have anal sex with his young son. (Dad was simply holding the boy as they rode together on a float.)

Gasps of disgust could be heard among the roughly 50 viewers when the "Gay Fathers" and "Gay and Lesbian Educators" contingents appeared on the screen.

The message? Gays are destructive and manipulating—and trying to lure your children into their deviant lifestyle.

A subtitle saying "This is what gay rights means" flashed periodically.

When the video ended, the alarmed sat silent.

OCA leaders, meanwhile, noted that they planned to distribute copies, at the cost of about \$7 per cassette, to pastors and other supporters throughout Oregon, all in an effort to pass their newly crafted initiatives, one of which equated homosexuality with bestiality and necrophilia.

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