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Morgan volunteered to do phone banking on behalf of the No on 9 Campaign. During one of her calls, she reached a mother who said she believed in supporting the measure.

But after hearing Morgan recite her speech, the woman said she would vote against the measure. "I felt very proud of myself for making a difference and for her, too," she said.

Susan Rosenthal has a daughter at Buckman as well.

"If Measure 9 passes, my teachers could not help me stand up for people who are teased about having gay or lesbian parents," Abra said. "I'm worried that we won't stand up for people who are different in other ways, like people who are adopted like me or who have brown skin or who look different."

Rosenthal, a clinical social worker, fears all of the work the Buckman parents have done would be halted should Measure 9 pass.

"None of us here are the least bit interested in promoting that heterosexual people become homosexual or influencing children's sexual orientation one way or the other," she said. "This view that anyone's ultimate sexual orientation can be influenced by openness and tolerance about sexual orientation is naive, fear-based and not supported in the professional literature."

What is being promoted in schools, Rosenthal said, is "the idea that our children—and all children—deserve to feel welcomed, safe and affirmed at school, find role models among their teachers, read about others like us in what they study and not be teased or called names because their parents are Hispanic or Jewish or have gotten divorced or use a wheelchair or are gay or lesbian. Isn't that the sort of respect and tolerance we all want for all our children in all our schools?" **jm**

LEGAL EAGLES

ACLU prepares to pounce on Measure 9

Experts are saying Measure 9 would face strong legal challenges should it pass Nov. 7. They say it appears vulnerable because it likely violates free speech and academic freedom not to mention that it discriminates against gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon already is prepared to challenge Measure 9 if it passes, executive director David Fidanque told the *Oregonian*. "The measure is so sweeping and at the same time so vague, there probably are a half-dozen ways it is vulnerable to constitutional attacks," he said.

Measure 9 would prohibit the "instruction of behaviors relating to homosexuality and bisexuality" in a manner that "encourages, promotes or sanctions such behaviors." It addresses the official speech of the school, not the private speech of students or of an independent party, said Scott Lively, the Oregon Citizens Alliance's legal adviser.

The legal challenge, should there be one, likely would occur in the Oregon Court of Appeals. That court ruled it was unconstitutional to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation after Oregon Health Sciences University denied an employee's same-sex spouse benefits.

THE FINAL STRETCH

No on 9 Campaign needs volunteers for the last big push

The No on 9 Campaign still needs money.

"We've had to do all we can," communication director Jennifer Webber said about getting the funds. She said the campaign's finances were "down to the absolute wire" but declined to release any information about the money taken in by No on 9 or the expendi-

tures for advertising.

Only 10 percent of the ballots were turned in as of Oct. 27, according to the *Oregonian*. Webber said one of the most important messages to voters is to send in their ballots.

An election night No on 9 Campaign party will take place at Portland's Benson Hotel, but because of limited space, it is not open to the public. However, Webber said

people who are looking for a supportive place can join the Democrats' election party in reserved ballrooms at the Benson.

No on 9 still needs volunteers for phone banking and neighborhood canvassing during the last days of the campaign. For more information call 503-232-7176. **jm**



Jennifer Webber

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