



PHOTO BY JIM RADOSTA

Pickers accuse *Willamette Week* of promoting racism, sexism and homophobia

rejected the Freedom Socialist Party's electoral petition, citing a statute that gave the Socialist Party, already on the ballot, exclusive use of the word "socialist." The Socialist Party strongly supports the Freedom Socialist Party in the case.

"We are jubilant about this victory," said Jordana Sardo, who intends to run for office on the Freedom Socialist Party slate. "The ruling is very welcome, especially after the presidential elections have shown such a great public need for broader voting choices."

The Freedom Socialist Ballot Access Case Defense Committee is urging supporters to contact Attorney General Hardy Myers and urge him not to appeal the ruling. Call 503-378-6002, fax 503-378-4017 or send e-mail to hardy.myers@state.or.us.

BRO PLANS LUNCHEON

Basic Rights Oregon recently announced its eighth annual Oregonians Against Discrimination Luncheon. The money raised at the event helps support the work of the organization and gives business and political leaders an opportunity to network and show their support for protecting and advancing human rights.

The luncheon, scheduled for April 18 at the downtown Portland Hilton, is one of several fund-raising events throughout the year sponsored by Basic Rights Oregon. More than 700 people are expected to attend.

Each year, Basic Rights Oregon honors an Oregon business that has taken positive steps to end discrimination in the workplace. Portland General Electric was honored at the 2000 luncheon. This year's recipient has not been announced.

Basic Rights Oregon is the state's largest human rights organization for gay and lesbian people. The organization led the fight last fall against Measure 9, the anti-gay ballot initiative sponsored by the Oregon Citizens Alliance. It was defeated 53 percent to 47 percent.

The Fair Workplace Project, one of Basic Rights Oregon's most successful projects, has more than 400 businesses as members who support nondiscrimination policies in the workplace.

For more information call 503-222-6151 or visit the Internet site www.basicrights.org.

PROTESTERS PICKET PUBLICATION

About a half-dozen protesters picketed outside the offices of *Willamette Week* Jan. 22 because of a series of controversial comments printed in the alternative newspaper. The most recent was by John Callahan, whose Jan. 17 cartoon depicted a hate crimes judge telling a lawyer, "No, your client does not get to spend half his time in jail and half his time free because he killed a Bi-sexual!"

Among the picketers were bisexual activist Sven Bonnichsen, feminist activist Jennifer Laverdure and trans activist Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan. They held signs and distributed fliers encouraging people to contact advertisers and tell them "how much *Willamette Week's* hate-mongering offends you."

The other controversial comments were made by movie critic David Walker, who wrote in his Dec. 20 review of the Sandra Bullock film *Miss Congeniality*: "Could someone please stick something in her mouth to shut her up? My zipper is stuck." In the Dec. 27 issue, he joked that *Bamboozled* director Spike Lee "should be beaten like a runaway slave."

"*Willamette Week* just seems to keep blowing off concerns of the community," Bonnichsen says. "It was time to up the stakes a little."

Bonnichsen says the cartoon, although the least serious of the controversial comments, "just sort of pushed us over the edge.... When I look at it, I think, 'What's funny about this?' It's wrapped in a scenario where people are being murdered."

Another demonstration was staged Jan. 29 at Fred Meyer, a major *Willamette Week* advertiser. According to Bonnichsen, the companies contacted by protesters so far have been "horrified" at the controversial comments.

"*Willamette Week* wants to think that Portland is so progressive and hip that this stuff is OK," he says, "but I don't think Portland is where it thinks it is." **jm**

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