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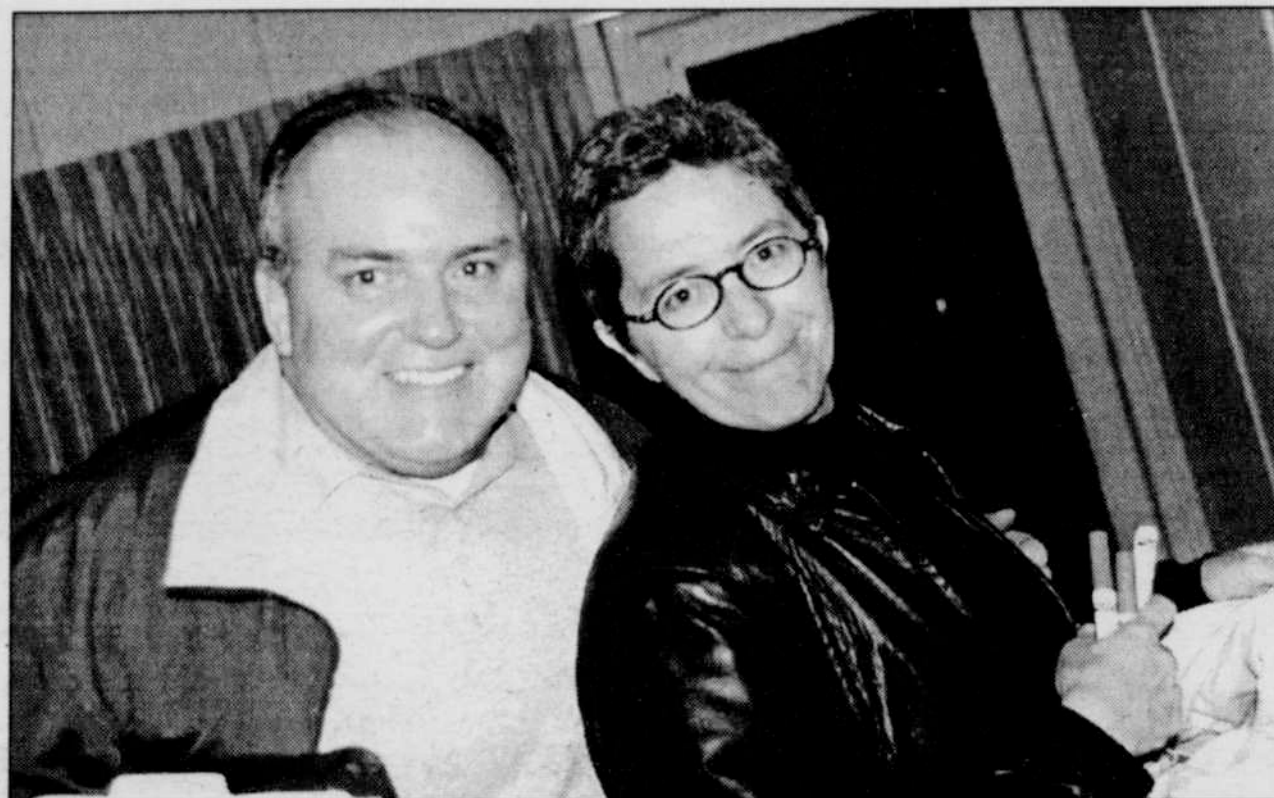


PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Ron Glanville and Sue Hyde attend the Creating Change informational community meeting Feb. 27

PEOPLE HELP CREATE CREATING CHANGE

Volunteers came together Feb. 27 for an informational community meeting to launch the 2002 Creating Change Host Committee. The 15th annual conference will be held Nov. 6 to 10 at the Doubletree Columbia River Hotel.

The gathering, the largest of its kind, attracts gay, lesbian, bi and trans leaders from throughout the country. More than 2,500 participants will hear representatives from a cross section of the movement: rural and urban, young and old, and of different races and ethnicities.

The committee will meet and work through the year to plan for the on-the-ground activities associated with Creating Change. It will organize hospitality operations, manage a community housing network, recruit up to 300 volunteers to work during the conference, provide supportive environments and services for youth and elders, and spread the word throughout the state.

"The...committee plays an invaluable role in making every conference a success," said conference director Sue Hyde, who flew in from Cambridge, Mass., for the meeting. "Together with local leaders and organizations, we will produce an event that will leave a lasting mark on both the GLBT movement nationwide and on the communities of Portland and Oregon."

—Sue Hyde

Creating Change consists of pre-conference institutes, more than 130 workshops, nuts-and-bolts skills training, plenary meetings, keynote presentations, discussion groups, social and cultural events, and an exhibition/vendor area. Ron Glanville of the Portland Human Rights Campaign already has agreed to serve as a co-chairman; two or three others still are sought.

Some of the people in attendance were concerned that the time and energy required to help plan the conference will conflict with the potential campaign against the Student Protection Act II, which might appear on the fall ballot. The initiative, similar to 2000's

Measure 9, would prohibit public schools from approving of, promoting or endorsing homosexuality or bisexuality.

Petitions are due July 6, but how many have been gathered so far is anybody's guess. Bonnie Mabon, Oregon Citizens Alliance secretary-treasurer, claimed Feb. 28 she did not know the number of people who have signed them.

Regardless of exhaustion, Hyde said, Oregon is a model for other states facing anti-gay initiatives. "I am keenly interested in learning more and more about how to defeat these creeps, which you all seem to have learned how to do!"

For more information contact Sue Hyde at 617-492-6393 or shyde@ngltf.org or visit www.creatingchange.org.

COUNCIL REJECTS INITIATIVE FIX

In a 4-1 vote Feb. 20, the Portland City Council refused to refer an amended version of the Good Government Initiative to the May ballot. The charter amendment, proposed by gay businessman Robert Ball, would result in district representation and put managers in charge of departmental services.

The initiative's language contains a technical flaw that would shut down city government in 2004. However, if voters approve the measure, the council likely will refer a corrected version to the November ballot.

Mayor Vera Katz endorsed the initiative during her State of the City speech Feb. 22. She insisted her support is in the best interest of Portland, not her potential 2004 candidacy.

"It strengthens accountability between the city's executive and legislative actions through a system of checks and balances," Katz said. "It brings city government's attention closer to your neighborhood."

HRC ENDORSES HOUSE CANDIDATES

Reminding voters that the outcome of the 2002 elections will have a significant effect on legislation promoting equality for sexual minorities, the Human Rights Campaign released its initial list of House endorsements Feb. 22. To date, it has endorsed 175 candidates—156 Democrats, 18 Republicans and one Independent.

Oregon's entire Democratic delegation—David Wu, Earl Blumenauer, Peter A. DeFazio and Darlene Hooley—received the thumbs-up. The state's only Republican in the House is Greg Walden.