



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS  
The most scathing accusation was that Smith co-sponsored an Oregon Christian Coalition activist training in July 2001 in Portland. BRO provided *Just Out* with documentation listing his name right alongside the leaders of the state's anti-gay movement: the Oregon Citizens Alliance, the

State Sen. Avel Gordly is one of several Democrats who have endorsed Smith

**THE NEGATIVES**

Although Smith, a Mormon from eastern Oregon, has expressed his support on some queer issues, he still does not believe in full equality for the sexual minorities community. He supports the extension of certain benefits to same-sex couples—inheritance, hospital visitation and wrongful death claims—that automatically are granted to married straight people.

"To me, that's about freedom of association, freedom of contract," he said. "I have tried to be very honest with the gay community—the one area where I'm not there is on gay marriage."

When asked whether the government's unequal treatment of queers could be a factor that leads people to commit hate crimes, Smith responded: "I wish we could legislate benevolent hearts, but you can't. In the end, I think we can set a good example in our law that we should be tolerant."

During a rally held Oct. 3 in response to the Judy Shepard ad, Basic Rights Oregon executive director Roey Thorpe outlined a series of flaws in Smith's record. Her organization, which normally does not take sides in federal races, has endorsed Bradbury.

Constitution Party, Concerned Women for America and Mabon attorney Frank Patrick.

"We feel used. Will Gordon Smith be there when we need him? Only if it's convenient and if it fits his image du jour," Thorpe said. "Pro-gay Oregonians aren't stupid. We know when we're being played for fools."

Thorpe rattled off a handful of other disappointing actions taken by Smith:

- He refused to speak out against the OCA's anti-gay Student Protection Act in 2000 and its watered-down sequel this year, which failed to qualify for the fall ballot.

- He voted for the Helms Amendment, which forces public schools to let the Boy Scouts of America use their facilities despite its anti-gay policies.

- He supported the appointment of U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, who some say lied during his confirmation hearing about his opposition to Hormel's nomination.

The day of the rally, HRC defended its endorsement of Smith, explaining its criteria favor "incumbency, and when a senator supports our issues, we will support him or her." It also released a short statement from Judy Shepard.

"I have leant my support to Sen. Smith because he has stood by me in my efforts to pass meaningful hate crimes legislation that includes addressing violence against gay and lesbian citizens," she said. "Sen. Smith is more than entitled to highlight his efforts to pass this legislation in his re-election effort."

Even Bradbury admitted the Judy Shepard spot is "a good ad." He spoke with queer community leaders, activists and journalists during an Oct. 1 conference call arranged by the National Stonewall Democrats.

"Let's give some credit where credit's due, and that is that Gordon Smith is the only Republican who spoke out on...Matthew Shepard," Bradbury said. "But that's really about as far as the credit should go. That's what he has focused on, and the reality is there are a whole lot of other issues that are important to the GLBT community which he is a disaster on!"

Bradbury explained why this race is so crucial to the future of U.S. politics. He said that Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., considers Oregon to be the state that could decide who controls the chamber.

"Gordon Smith would like you to believe that he's a friend to the gay and lesbian community because he supports the Employment Nondiscrimination Act and because he supports hate crimes legislation—and that's great. The only problem with that is that the Repub-



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS  
Former Gov. Barbara Roberts, a onetime HRC board member, leads a "100 Women for Bradbury" rally Sept. 19 in downtown Portland

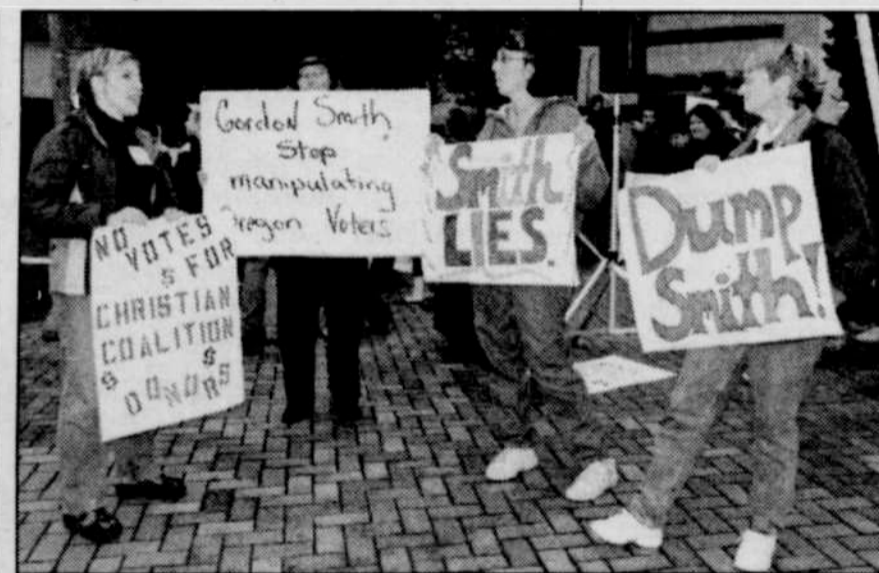
licans believe that that's all the GLBT community deserves. And Democrats believe that all of you deserve a whole lot more," Bradbury said. "We view discrimination based on sexual orientation as equal to discrimination based on any other factor."

The gloves really came off Oct. 16, when Bradbury slammed his opponent for comparing homosexuality to adultery. Smith made the comment to the *Statesman Journal* editorial board in response to a question about the Local Law Enforcement Act.

"The next time that issue comes to the floor, I'm going to have a veto-proof majority," he said. "If Christ can save a woman's life caught in the act of adultery—without endorsing her lifestyle, but saving her life—why can't we do that?"

Bradbury demanded an explanation. "Smith's quote...undermines his claim that he supports the gay and lesbian community," he said.

Bean spoke to the senator Oct. 17 and found out the quote was taken out of context: "He told me that it was in response to a reporter's question, 'How would you respond to the religious right, who are so upset about your gay rights ad and your gay rights record?' As opposed to never talking to the Christian Coalition, they are exactly who he should be speaking to to change hearts and minds. It's my feeling he was trying to relate to them in biblical terms that they could understand." □



Dozens demonstrate Oct. 3 outside Smith's Portland office in response to the Judy Shepard ad; center, Angela Harris expresses her outrage

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