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National leaders are also advancing the idea of multi-issue progressive organizing. "We can learn something from the other side," says Tim McFeely, executive director of the Center for Policy Alternatives, a nonpartisan public policy organization that helps state legislators enact progressive change. A longtime queer rights activist, McFeely served as director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund from 1989 to 1995. Conservatives "don't organize in silos," he says.

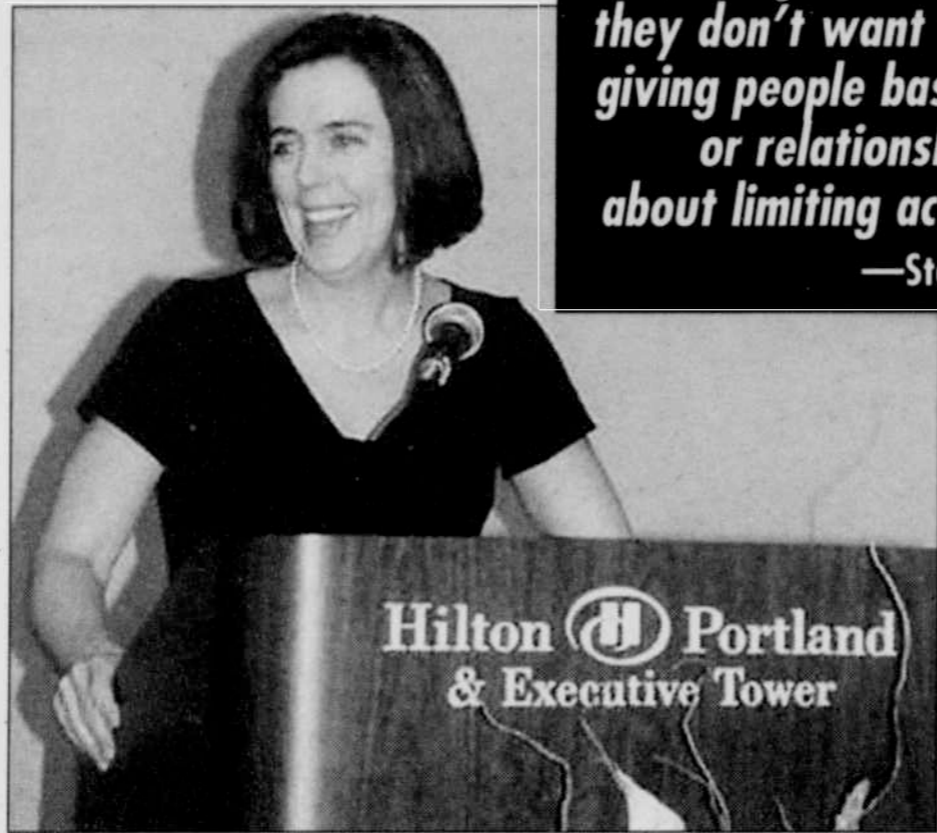
By teaming up, the queer and choice movements can leverage support for one another's issues. Sen. Brown describes the cross-pollination this way: "I don't want the government in my womb, and I don't want the government in my bedroom."

Brown says protecting abortion rights was one of the main reasons she went into politics. "For me, it's about my very essence of being a female. I see women's reproductive freedom as a human rights issue and as a way for women to achieve a self-determination, not just locally but also internationally."

Schwisow agrees: "Our reproductive freedom is a fundamental human right, just like our decision about who to sleep with and to be involved with."

Like Brown, Schwisow is bisexual, and because of this she has a particularly personal stake in reproductive freedom and queer liberation. However, she is quick to clarify that not only self-identified bisexual and heterosexual women are concerned with pregnancy and reproductive health.

"I think it's important to remember there are lesbian-identified women out there who



"Making women have babies they don't want to have, or not giving people basic employment or relationship rights, about limiting access to power"

—State Sen. Kate Brown

still sleep with men," she states. "Those folks still need the services a Planned Parenthood can provide, such as pregnancy options, counseling, pregnancy tests, screening for sexually transmitted diseases."

As options increase for lesbians to pursue parenthood, taking care of sexual health is doubly important. Comprehensive education about reproductive health and sexuality is something Roey Thorpe sees as another area of overlap for the pro-choice and pro-gay movements.

"Queers should know that the reproductive rights movement has been at the forefront of making information about sexuality available in schools," she says.

Thorpe is not the only leader of a queer organization to acknowledge allies in the feminist movement. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center in New York City took a public pro-choice stance in the late 1980s and publicly "recognized the debt the LGBT liberation movement owed to the feminist movement of the 1970s."

The center recently published the pamphlet *Causes in Common: Reproductive Rights and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Liberation*, which was produced as a position paper as part of a grant from the Ford Foundation. The community center will distribute the pamphlet at the upcoming March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C.

It states: "Reproduction and sexuality are profoundly and intimately related aspects of human experience. Reproduction is a choice that evolves out of sexuality, not an unavoidable consequence of sexuality. Individual human autonomy in the conduct of our sexual lives is integral to our liberty."

Liberty and individual human autonomy are concepts that seem lost on the Bush administration. While President Bush is attempting to foreclose certain rights for queers from ever existing, he is simultaneously dismantling reproductive rights that already exist for women.

The so-called Partial-Birth Abortion Act he signed into law last year is the first piece of federal legislation to put limits on Roe vs. Wade. The law, which bans late-term abortions, not only affects heterosexual women, it impinges upon the reproductive choices of any woman who has sex with men or any woman who is raped.

Additionally, the precedent set by the government's efforts to determine when "life" begins could precede government decisions about what constitutes gender and, more generally, what individuals are and are not allowed to do with their bodies.

Alice Cohen, director of the March for Women's Lives, says that in terms of attacks on reproductive and queer rights, "a threat to one is a direct threat to the other."

Sometimes that threat is made manifest in a single human being. In February anti-abortion extremist Stephen Jordi of Florida plead guilty to one count of attempted firebombing. Jordi was charged with plotting to bomb abortion clinics and gay and lesbian bars.

Gender discrimination by any other name

The anti-choice organization Oregon Right to Life has filed four initiatives for 2004 that limit women's access to abor-

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