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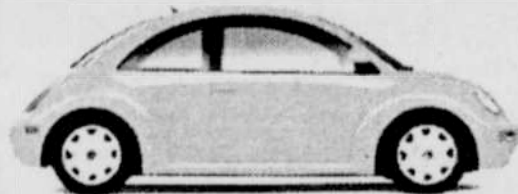
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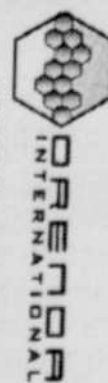
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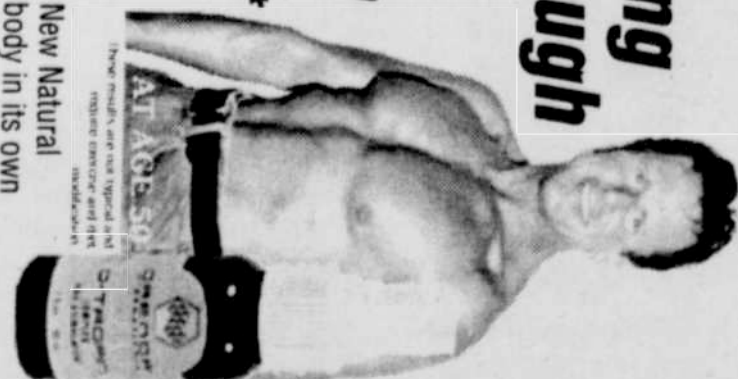
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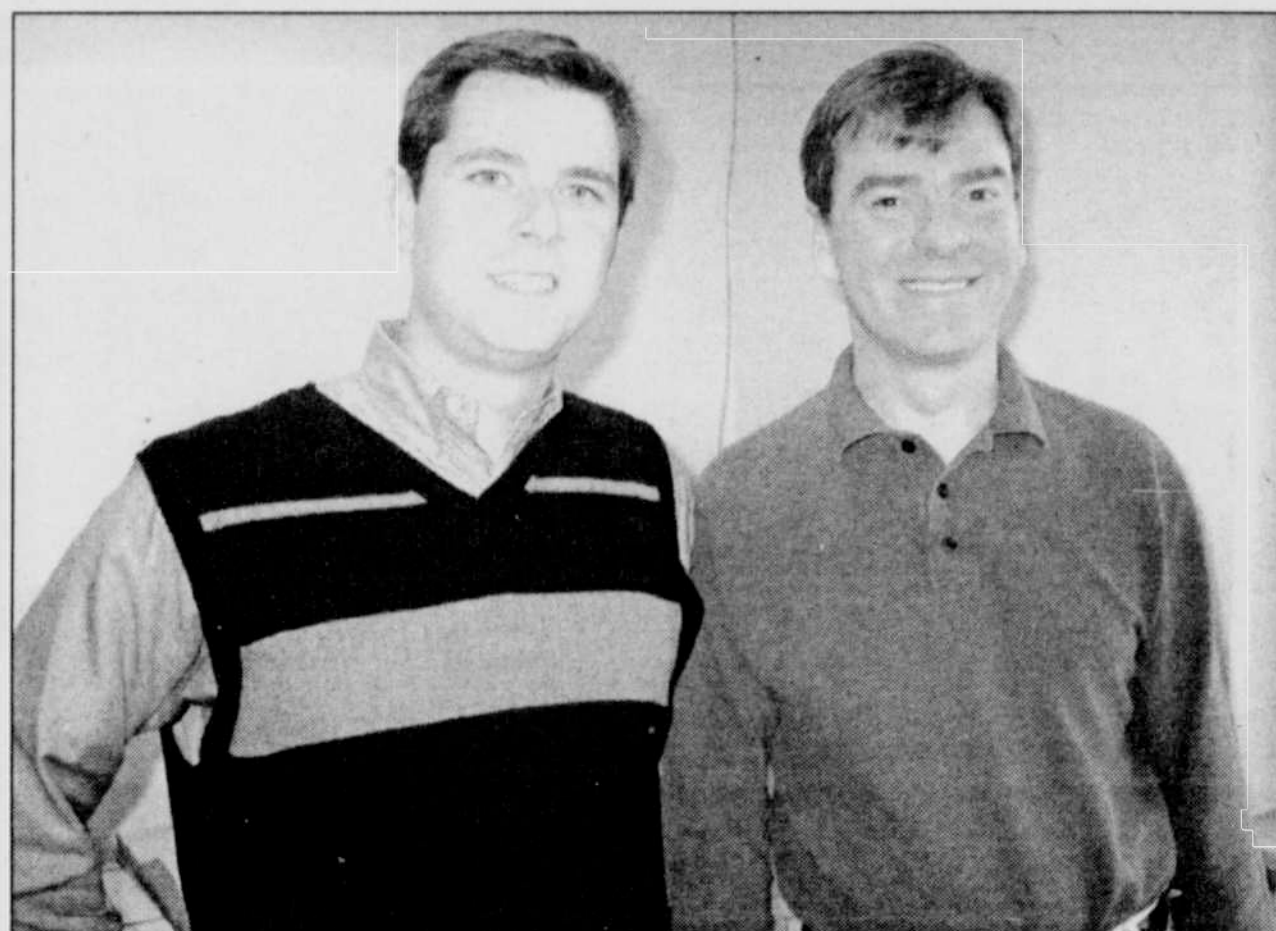


PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Human Rights Campaign legislative director Chris Labonte (left) and board of governors member Jay Harter are working to stop the Federal Marriage Amendment

DECLINE TO SIGN

Basic Rights Oregon and the Rural Organizing Project are asking supporters to keep their eyes peeled for petitioners seeking signatures for a state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

The Defense of Marriage Coalition has until July 2 to gather about 100,000 signatures to qualify the initiative for the November ballot. If people see a petitioner, they are encouraged to alert BRO and ROP; complain to store managers and corporate headquarters; and help distribute fliers discouraging people from writing discrimination into the Oregon Constitution.

"What is really being petitioned here is a Denial of Marriage Act," said Jenni Peskin, executive director of the Human Dignity Coalition in Bend, who was approached by a petitioner outside her local library. "By not signing this petition and by telling your friends and family not to sign, we can prevent discriminatory legislation from ever getting on the ballot."

The Oregon Court of Appeals has temporarily halted Judge Frank Bearden's ruling requiring the state to register the unions of the 3,000-plus same-sex couples who received marriage licenses between March 3 and April 20 in Multnomah County. He had declared that the Oregon Constitution prohibits discrimination in the issuance of marriage licenses and that the Legislature must remedy this situation within 90 days of the start of its next session; in the meantime, marriage licenses no longer are being issued to same-sex couples in Multnomah County.

Report petitioners to Alissa Haslam at 503-222-6151 or alissa@basicrights.org and Marcy Westerling at 503-543-8417 or marcy@rop.org.

HRC OFFICIAL VISITS PORTLAND

The Human Rights Campaign's legislative director visited Portland last month to update local leaders on national efforts to stop the White House's push for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

"They are really using this to not only drive out the religious right to vote in November but also to divide some of the...scarce resources that progressive organizations like HRC and our allies have," Christopher Labonte told *Just Out*. "When you look at the budgets of the right-wing

organizations vs. the progressive organizations, there's no way that we'll be able to match dollar for dollar, but we have gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender voters, their allies, their parents, their friends, their neighbors—we need to get the message out to make sure they get out to vote, too."

HRC is holding monthly meetings across the country to organize against the Federal Marriage Amendment. The next gathering will be held 7 p.m. June 22 at a location to be determined.

For more information visit hrc.meetup.com.

MARRIAGE AD AIRS IN SEATTLE

Log Cabin Republicans began broadcasting a 30-second television commercial May 27 in the Seattle area to fight the Federal Marriage Amendment. The ad aired on the east side of King County to coincide with the Washington State Republican Party convention in Bellevue.

"As GOP leaders from across Washington state come together, this ad sends an important message: You can be a good and loyal Republican by opposing efforts to write discrimination into the Constitution," said Brian Ballard, a national Log Cabin board member from Seattle. "To be the majority party...the GOP must continue to embrace its core principles: limited government, low taxes, a strong defense, personal responsibility and individual freedom. Extremism will lead to defeat."

The commercial uses excerpts from the 2000 vice presidential debate; when Dick Cheney declared that legal recognition of same-sex relationships should be "regulated by the states." The ad has been airing in 10 other states and Washington, D.C.

"Extremism does not win in Washington state," said Dave Kaplan, president of Log Cabin's Washington state chapter. "Principled conservatives and fair-minded Republicans, like Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn and Congressman George Nethercutt, have shown they can be successful in Washington state. The Washington state GOP should continue to resist exclusion and discrimination."

HOWARD DEAN ENDORSES POTTER

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, the one-time frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination, has endorsed Tom Potter in the