

Continued from Page 11

CORVALLIS RESIDENTS CHALLENGE THE LAW WEEKLY

A small group of same-sex couples and opposite-sex advocates visit the Benton County Courthouse each Friday at 4 p.m. to request a marriage license.

Undeterred by the passage of Measure 36 and increasing sentiment against same-sex marriage, activist Julie Williams notes: "The real issue is about our real lives. The right to marry is the birthright of all people. We feel that the discrimination associated with constitutional law

that Oregonians supported needs to be expressed daily so that people other than gay people can see it, feel it, know it for what it is."

Each time the small band has gone into the courthouse, a straight couple has been in the process of applying for a marriage license. "Each time, I think we educated another Oregonian," notes Coleen Belisle, another activist. "I hope that every day some county clerk somewhere in this state will have to deny someone their civil right to marry. We will keep going until we get one. For us, it is not about politics, it's about our basic human desire to participate in our community as whole people."



A crowd gathers weekly outside the Benton County Courthouse to challenge marriage laws.



Bartender Chris Blachly enjoys a quiet afternoon serving drinks at Scandals, which is to remain in its current location until Sept. 1.

SCANDALS TO STAY PUT UNTIL SEPT. 1

You may have read the premature reference in another local paper to the "former site of Scandals." Do not be alarmed.

Scandals is not moving until Sept. 1, and then it is not moving very far, according to owner Glen Dugger—just to a new spot in the neighborhood. A new facility with the same feel—a comfortable, well-lit watering hole—will replace the current bar at Southwest Stark Street and 11th Avenue.

The Clyde Hotel will be transformed this fall into the Ace, and a restaurant will replace Scandals; Dugger thinks it will be gay-owned. He sees the hotel as part of a revitalization of Stark Street that does not include, as it has in other cities, the closing of the gay neighborhood.

"Some people have called it the 'death of Stark Street,' but I'm not sure about that. I think it will be good for business," he notes.

The controversial move of the Pride parade away from Stark Street has prompted business owners there to get together and hold a street party on the Sunday of Pride Weekend.

"Whoever planned the parade has ignored the gay community completely," says Dugger, with a touch of frustration in his voice. But he's not letting this stop him.

"So we're having our own party. We're still here. The business owners have really cooperated wonderfully. There will be live acts and DJs and dancing in the street." ■

Compiled by News Editor SARAH DOUGHER, who can be reached at sarah@justout.com.

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