

A look into Oregon's gay rights battle, and beyond

OCA agenda includes more than 'anti-gay' initiative

by Daniel J. Mala
Staff Writer

In the past year the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) has become very well known. For many people, Ballot Measure 9 brought about the OCA, but the truth is that the OCA has been working on different political issues since the mid-1980s. Focusing in on Measure 9 and its content leaves out the majority of the picture when trying to make sense of complicated and controversial issues. All too often people hear about "hate" and "discrimination" because it's interesting and emotional and it makes us struggle, but that doesn't tell us what the OCA's agenda is. In order to understand the OCA's plans, it is imperative to understand the OCA.

In talking with Christy Mabon, a CCC student and an active member of the OCA and daughter of Lon Mabon (the founder and executive president), it became clear that Measure 9 indeed is a small part of the OCA's agenda. The OCA is founded on "traditionalism" and protecting the "standards and values that our country was founded on." Christy expressed gravely that "our capitalistic system is going away ... and we are moving into socialism." In essence the OCA's goal is to "fight against that (socialism) movement, and to uphold traditionalism."

The work of Lon Mabon started in Klamath Falls in a retirement home owned by the Mabon family. In 1986, Mabon started working on the Joe Lutz campaign for U.S. senator. He felt that the liberal view was beginning to dominate politics and that there needed to be a balance. Though Lutz lost in the primaries

to Bob Packwood, Mabon continued using the political clout he had gained from the more conservative voters to form the OCA.

In the years prior to Measure 9, the OCA worked through the legislative process at state and city levels. They worked to illegalize abortion, cut back on government regulation, lower taxes and reform the school system. Although he got through these processes with few positive re-

There are a lot of important things that can be learned from the past, but the OCA believes that the "traditional lifestyle" can be achieved through the ballot box. The main problem is life is far different now than it was 40 years ago and the likelihood of returning to the days of the housewife are virtually impossible.

Gary Wilson from People of Faith Against Bigotry has been an activist within the gay com-

satisfied living his life in the closet, but the crimes against gays caused him to come out. "It's very common for a gay or lesbian to have had two or three friends that were murdered. I've known several people that were killed." Wilson feels that "the issue will not be won or settled or finalized on paper. People (gay) need to start coming out (of the closet) so there's a face. We were invisible to survive."

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—Gary Wilson

People of Faith Against Bigotry

sults, Mabon started gaining support and political power.

As crime and divorce rates rise, many people begin to fear the future. The alternative for those people is clear; the OCA provides an opportunity to fight back to the past through the initiative process. All that is needed to get there is a majority.

But the past didn't have the same benefits and problems that we have today. People are more free in America than ever before, and with freedom comes chaos. But in trying to relieve the stress and fear of the chaos, rights will be lost if we were to go back to the past. Christy clearly states that "the family is breaking apart ... and it's not because of religious fanatics. You've got feminists and women going to work everywhere, which isn't a bad thing but it takes away from the children. Parents bringing up the children properly: you just don't have it anymore."

munity for 25 years. One message he wanted to make clear was that he was "pro-gay and lesbian rights, not against the OCA ... just working for any affirmative action laws." Wilson, a former school teacher before becoming a minister, is a leader in the gay community. "There's lots of educational work that needs to be done. Our (PFAB) role is to provide materials and resources to churches ... we don't shape the churches, we just provide knowledge."

Wilson's physical appearance does not fit the stereotype of gay men that the OCA perpetuates. But he is gay and very much unwilling to live within the "traditional standards" the OCA offers. Instead of directing hatred at each other, Wilson said that "we (the gay community and the OCA) need to find a way to sit down and talk about what they're afraid of."

Wilson explained that he was

Commentary:

The OCA's Ballot Measure 9 is just an attempt to return to our traditional roots. Though it is only a small step back, it caused a great deal of animosity.

People yelling "stop special rights", and "stop bigotry", and "hate, hate, hate." Hate is an escape from fear. If you voted yes on Ballot Measure 9 because you understood the OCA's objective and wish to return to more conservative family values of years past, then you voted correctly.

If you voted yes on Ballot Measure 9 because you hate homosexuals, fags, dykes, or queers, next time you might pay more attention to your own fears and make sure the OCA agenda is something you want.

If you voted no on Ballot Measure 9, I wish you luck in the future for it is unknown and full of chaos, but I think we'll live.

A talk with Oregon

Packwood and Blazers' behavior is morally-reprehensible

by Robert A. Hibberd
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Hey! Hey! Hey!
Put down that chainsaw.
Stop the destruction for a moment.
I think it's about time we had a man-to-state talk.

I'll give you a moment to let the buzzing in your head subside.

OK, here's the situation. As much as I love your fresh air and clean rivers, I am downright embarrassed to live in this state. I'm embarrassed about all this morally-reprehensible behavior that is being committed here.

First of all, what's the deal with all this stuff about our Junior Senator Robert Packwood? Here's a guy who hid out in his house (wouldn't talk to us) when all these women were saying all these horrible things about him. When he finally emerged from the catacombs, he said he had a drinking problem then admitted himself into a home for drunkards. Now, he says this whole deal was a just a cruel hoax played against him by plotting maniacal women. Now he's sure his buddies in the Senate Ethics committee are going to bail him out.

I watched the Portland

Trail Blazer game Saturday. It was a crushing defeat handed to us by our rivals from up north, the Seattle Supersonics. Shawn Kemp of the Sonics murdered us. Did you see that awesome slam dunk he did? The one where he kicked Robinson in the head after slamming home. Ouch!

Anyway, during the course of our televised slaughter, I couldn't help but wonder if the reason we were playing so poorly was because our guys were suffering from a hangover or that they had too much sex with teenagers the night before. Which brings me to my second point of interest.

Let's face it, a lot of our Blazers are not so much concerned about winning as they are getting messed up on booze and having sex in hotel rooms with young girls that they've picked up in shopping malls. Malls are the best place to meet little girls. Parents have a tendency to leave them there for the course of a day. This is tactical information for basketball players.

So maybe Portland shouldn't put all of our state's pride in these millionaires who

throw balls through holes. Maybe every bumper should have these sex animals' logo on it. It's embarrassing.

Well, I think you get the point and I'm tired of lecturing. I won't bother mentioning Trojan

or Measure 9.

OK, I'll let you get back to work. Here's your chainsaw. Don't cut down the babies and please don't clear cut.

You've embarrassed me Oregon, but I still love you.

GIVE ANOTHER CHANCE. GIVE BLOOD.



American Red Cross



With Clinton comes change

by Zach Kreinheder
Staff Writer

It has been three weeks since the presidential inauguration and I find myself, as well as other young Americans, skeptical of things to come. With the change of presidents many Americans are hopeful that this administration is the start of a new era, and believe in Clinton's judgment. However, there are also many who are reminiscent of the Bush administration.

I myself find the idea of Clinton as president not necessarily appealing, but can welcome it with open arms and mind. I feel that America is ready for change. My main concern, as I'm sure is many others', especially young Americans, is where will we fall in this administration? I believe we are all children of the future. The choices made by Clinton's new era government will affect all. The most drastic change will be the way we run our society tomorrow, as well as the standard of living.

In the next four years we will be settling into life, and making our careers. The time is here, the stage is open, stand out and speak your mind; we need to let the world know we don't want to be the only generation worse off than our parents.

With all things taken into account -- the deficit, federal spending, the national economy, social security and the ever rising unemployment rate -- we will be the ones most affected by the choices of today.

Letter to the Editor

Antifreeze issue

Dear Editor:

In regards to a letter in the Jan. 27 issue of **The Print** from Michael Odgers. Antifreeze should have an embittering agent added to it. I know from personal experience that its flavor is quite sweet.

Odgers is right that parents should keep antifreeze and all toxins away from children. Accidents, however, do happen. Antifreeze containers may leak, and cooling systems on cars may also leak and release antifreeze. Dogs and other pets are often attracted to spilled antifreeze. For a few extra pennies of cost, antifreeze could be made safe. According to a letter in the **Milwaukie Review**, antifreeze manufactured in the United States which is bound for foreign markets must have embittering agents added. I think Americans deserve no less.

Ray Conklin
CCC Automotive Instructor