

THE NORTH  
COAST

VOL13NO2  
50CENTS



TIMES  
EAGLE

AUGUST  
1991

*In a dark time the eye begins to see.*  
- Theodore Roethke



DRAWING BY DAVID SUTER

## STOP THE WITCH HUNT

BY DAYMON G. EDWARDS

The Oregon Citizens' Alliance, also known as the Oregon Crackpot Alliance, thinks that it is God's gift to bread-and-butter morality, when it is actually a bunch of hysterical, rightwing wackos who are frantically trying to chip away at the very foundation of our free society.

"No Special Rights" they scream, but since when did equality become a "special right" for Americans? We live in a country that gives men medals for killing other men in time of war, yet shuns and degrades them for loving one in a time of peace.

Why, oh why does the OCA insist upon splitting this state in two on this issue? Why not work together to solve the real, more pressing problems facing us today. They think that just because they hoodwinked and lured half of Oregon's voters into throwing away a perfectly fair and sound law in 1988 and that they have got us all in their back pocket.

But boy, are they in for a surprise.

These folks know no bounds. They have even gone as far as to scream that Portland's police chief is not fit to serve the people of Portland just because he thinks homosexuals are people too. Mr. Tom Potter is arguably the best chief of police Portland has seen in years, and he clearly does not deserve this off-balance, unbelievably stupid attack on his character. Potter is nothing less than a fair, strong, steadfast protector of all citizens of Portland, and what in the world is wrong with that? The OCA should be so lucky to have someone of Potter's caliber in their ranks.

The OCA says he "promotes homosexuality as a normal alternative lifestyle." But what is normal? Are heterosexuals normal? What the OCA won't tell you is that the vast majority of child molesters and rapists are heterosexual, not homosexual. They seem to think that a straight molester is somehow not as evil and perverted as a gay one. What kind of thinking is that?

Tell it to the thousands of little girls who are ravaged and raped by heterosexual men each year.

The cold, hard fact of the matter is the OCA doesn't like the power and influence that gay groups unquestionably wield in this state, and it is doing all it can to lessen it. They just do not like the fact that pro-homosexuals are in power in high places across the state. But it is in for a long, hard battle. And if it is a war they want, it is a war they will get.

Soon they are going to be touting a petition around, and please, for God's sake, do not be coerced into signing it. Read the fine print, then grab it and burn it — Oregon will be a better place for it. What's it all about, you say. Well, the good old boys at the OCA are talking about pedophilia, sado-masochism, necrophilia, bestiality, incest, anal sex and an assortment of other sexual practices. They say these are abnormal and don't want them promoted. That is fine, but the problem is, they are cunningly lumping homosexuality somewhere in the middle of all these activities, and that is where the trouble starts. Did they think we would not notice?

Do they really think homosexuals belong in this group? Don't they realize there are thousands of straight people out there who partake in these activities everyday? And don't they know the vast majority of gay people think these actions are just as disgusting?

The OCA seems to think homosexuals are something new. They seem to forget they have been around since the beginning and they just are not going to run and hide now and allow this senseless witch hunt to continue. Let us not be fooled by this ridiculous, backward thinking group of people and allow them to get any more power than they already have.

Daymon Edwards has served two terms as chairman of the Clatsop County AIDS Coalition. He has lived in Astoria for eighteen years and was twice a candidate for the city council. He is involved in many community organizations.