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Retters to the Editor

Letter To The Editor Dear Editor:

I must take this opportunity to voiced strong exception to Ms. Vesia Loving's October 7, 1992 Letter to the Editor regarding Measure 9. Specifically her views concerning the issue of legalized discrimination against homosexuals not fitting into her observations of the Black experience. This is a most peculiar argument.

For years and years and years I have heard the "Christian" community use biblical scriptures to condemn the religious and cultural practices of Jews, Native Americans, Homosexuals, women, etc., etc. It is particularly distressful when a member of one oppressed group becomes the oppressor of another. The feel of power over others is indeed provocative and seductive, I suppose.

How very pretentious of Ms. Loving to state that as a person she does "not believe in hate crimes against anyone" while asserting the argument that "homosexuality is abnormal, is immoral, is perverse, is an abomination and a sex sin along with adultery, fornication and God despises. Now this is a fine example of a pitifully befuddled contention based upon one's wildly distress imaginings of what homosexual folk are. As a scholar I have come to understand ignorance, though I do not think of it as virtue, I have come to respect it in the context of what it is (i.e. perhaps one doesn't have access to the knowledge). Thus I often tolerate and suffer through the ignorance of others. On the

other hand pretentiousness is a human condition I have little regard or temperance for (i.e. one has acquired the knowledge, but refuses to use it). I have become impatient with the pomposity of pretentious persons and lately the noisiness of their aggressive untruths surely vexes my spirit.

white-female and the mother of a homosexual daughter, I no longer desire the feigned affection of those "Christian" persons who remain blinded by their own choices and ambitions, namely to feel good about being prejudice. Obviously Ms. Loving does not know my daughter, even more I suspect by her themes that would damn a whole community she really knows very little of the people who inhabit that community. Ms. Loving's prejudices have blinded her as to what virtues may exist there. It is not an accident that the same case of arrogance has been used in the Black-White cultural arrangement, moreover as archaic as it seems it works. We still lead separate lives.

I urge readers to examine Measure 9's argument carefully, particularly from whence it comes. The reality is and may have always been, that homosexual persons inhabit our world. Moreover and similarly, Jews, feminist, Native and African Americans, as well as many, many diverse cultural others do too. Furthermore, try as they might, nothing Western, White, Christian males have done to us (e.g. slavery, torture, raping, internments, etc., etc.) has changed that

To The Editor

Measure 9 is not discrimination against any one. It is however, discriminating against Perversion, Gay, Lesbian, homosexuality, immorality, and infidelity. God will not go along with Sin and ministers, Pastors, Priests, and Rabbi, that vote no on measure 9, are voting against "God", and woe be unto them.

In Matthew, we read, where our Lord said, "then will I profess unto them I never knew you, depart from me ye that work inequity.

So church going citizen, if your Pastor or overseer is voting no on 9, then I say according to the word of God you are attending the wrong place of As an individual who is a Jewish-

reality. I will not pretend to be what

see homosexuality is nothing new.

Please do not vote against God.

See Genesis 2:24.

produce life.

good.

God is voting YES on measure 9.

God made women because it is not

So it is natural for a MAN and a

The only thing two men can pro-

Many people think that measure 9

good for man to be alone. Genesis 2:18.

WOMAN to make love, they have the

"where" withall to be productive and

duce is "acquired immune deficiency

syndrome," better known as AIDS, and

that is destructive, and not productively

discriminates or is intending to work

against civil rights or Blacks, or Jews.

Measure 9 have rendered truth an antiquated notion. Historically it has been pleasing to such persons when fear temporarily wins out. Fear, ignorance and pretention have interpreted diversity as problematic, hence we have had the Jewish problem, the Black problem, the Native problem, etc., etc. of course, dare I say it, Christians themselves, once upon a time, were a "problem." In hindsight, I think even most Christian people would agree that the proposed "solutions" to all these human "problems" is a chapter many would like to forget. Ms. Loving might like to forget, fortunately for her, some of us are still

some groups would have me be and it is

of great pride that my daughter lives by

the truth of what she is. Proponents of

In Sisterhood,

around to remind her.

Pamella E. Settlegoode

P.S. Here's a little academic experiment for those who believe as Ms. Loving seems to that "... the homosexual problem as it is being related to discrimination against black people ... will never bring the deprivation, the inhumane treatment that blacks have suffered since slavery." When in a public place (e.g. a bus, a downtown sidewalk, a store, etc.) simply hold the hand of a same sexed person, it can be one's related teenaged child. Then wait, observe, see what happens. The result of this social experiment won't take long. You will feel it, but be cautious for it will be a strong reaction, be forever careful. Alas, perhaps now you will be on to it!

inviting terrible crime to our streets, so much so, crime today will be like "Sunday School" games.

Measure 9 is no at all against color, it's against sinful crime against nature. Measure 9 is not discriminating against color classification, but against infidelity and perversion. Homosexuals must go back into the closet and lock the door. Dope is already destroying our country, by crime and youth suicide.

President Lincoln said, " of all of the armies from all of the countries in the world, none can step across the water and destroy "America," he went on to say, if "America" is ever destroyed in will happen from within."

Oregon does not need any more

Letter To The Editor

Thank You! for your excellent headline article, "African-Americans Voting No on 9, A New Political Action Committee", in this week's issue! Since the OCA seems to be using a "Big Lie" technique (the technique made famous by Adolf Hitler in his rise to power), it is especially important that responsible people expose the truth behind the OCA propaganda, as your article did.

Many of the falsehoods now being spread by the OCA have already been publicly refuted. For instance, the People of Faith Against Bigotry are responding to the OCA's mis-use of Biblical texts, right now. (Of course, we know that twisting Christian Biblical quotations out of context, to try and justify hatred, fear, and discrimination is not new. It is as old as the slaveholders in our South who tried to convince each other that the Bible justified slavery.) Also, the OCA's idiotic charges against public school teachers were refuted in a recent editorial in the Oregonian. (Bigots using the public schools as a battleground for their pet hates is not new, either, as any of us who lived during the era of segregated

schools can testify.) I am amazed, however, to see that one aspect of the OCA's hate campaign has been nearly overlooked in the media. The aspect that nearly everyone seems to have overlooked is this: the OCA's perversion of the term "no special rights". This term (as twisted by the OCA) has become the biggest lie of all.

While it is true that homosexual Americans, as a group, have No "special rights" in our society (in fact, homosexuals in our culture face such a burden of hatred, prejudice, and fear that they've often been denied the most

Letter To The Editor:

As the election day nears and various political races become more intense I would like to address what appears to be the most intense, shrill, emotional and for many, fearsome measures on the Oregon ballot-measure 9.

Proponents of this measure say homosexuality is sinful because the bible labels it so. The bible also condemns the following behaviors: fornication, adultery, masturbation and divorce. Is sinful behavior a matter for a constitutional amendment? If so should fornication, adultery, masturbation and divorce also be addressed in the constitution?

basic human rights most Americans take for granted), the OCA has twisted this term "no Special rights" to imply that our homosexual citizens get (or want) some special break that others do not. Nothing could be farther from the truth!

But this is how the Big Lie technique works: If enough people hear a big lie often enough, many of them will begin to assume that it is true. Many Oregonians have started to fall for this by now, assuming, "Well, gee whiz, I guess homosexuals must be getting some kinda special rights they shouldn't, just because I've heard that so much."

This is truly frightening; --especially when we read Ballot Measure 9 and realize that, in fact, it would legalize Special Discrimination against homosexual Americans (or anyone else even suspected of not-hating homosexual Americans (or anyone else even suspected of not-hating homosexual Americans!), --special discrimination that has never existed in our nation before!

I wonder how many Americans remember that this is how Hitler got his foot in the door, in Germany, -- by advocating the dame kind of special discrimination against homosexuals there? Many, many Germans who did not see through Hitler's Big Lie technique, later paid for it with their lives. Once Hitler and the Nazis got their foot in the door by whipping up fear against homosexuals in Germany, they soon turned on nearly everyone else; eventually killing over 6 million Christians, Jews, labor leaders, members of opposition political parties, disabled people, Gypsies, and everyone else they could find who did not fit their twisted fantasy of an"Aryan master race".

If we are telling ourselves, "It couldn't happen here." maybe we had

that homosexuals currently have special rights which this measure will remove. Homosexuals do not have special rights. Quite the contrary, they have no rights based on their sexual orientation. If measure 9 fails that remains the same. If measure 9 passes it will single out homosexuals as a class of abnormal and perverse persons, not worthy of basic human rights.

Proponents of this measure say they must stop the "gay agenda". They use fear and fuel divisiveness and hatred by conjuring up red herrings such as affirmative action. This is nonsense and cleverly distracts us from the agenda of the extreme Christian right. This extremely conservative socio-economic agenda would put lots of regu-

better think again. Many people in Germany (who later died in Nazi concentration camps) originally dismissed Hitler as a "harmless nut". The Big Lie campaign of the OCA is not harmless, either. Not since the vicious Jim Crow laws were ended in the South, have Americans been asked to actually pass a law mandating special discrimination against any group of Ameri-

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As an American of color, with African American ancestry, I am especially frightened by what I see coming behind Ballot Measure 9, if it passes. As an American who is old enough to remember the KKK lynchings of my childhood; old enough to remember watching one of my own relatives die that way; I know that No One deliberately creates a wave of irrational fear, hate, prejudice, and falsehoods, as the OCA' is doing now. except for one reason: to ride it to power. Many ruthless people used the hate-mongering and the terror tactics of the KKK for their own purposes, to ride to political power. Adolf Hitler shrewdly chose to attack the most defenseless minority group in Germany -- homosexuals -- to grab power and begin his reign of terror. Now the OCA is asking our help, to let them do the same thing.

If we let the OCA get their foot in the door now, none of us will be safe from the hatred and persecution that they seek to unleash upon us. Let's stop the Big Lie campaign of the OCA in its tracks! While there may always be some twisted people out there who will try to ride to power on hatred and fear, we do Not have to let them get their foot in the door here. Let's show the world that Oregonians are bigger than the hatemongering of the OCA!

> Sincerely, **Tashina Chris Spalding**

lation on personal activity and remove most regulation from big business and corporations.

Measure 9 is not a referendum on homosexuality. It is opposed by many persons who disapprove of homosexual behavior. Measure 9 is to determine if the constitution of this state should be amended to single out a group of people as abnormal and perverse. Just remember that voting No On 9 maintains the status quo. Yes on 9 changes the constitution and opens a Pandora's box of

worship.

Those that vote no on measure 9 are voting for SIN and God hates sin. God does not hate sinners because

he sent his only Son to die on the old rugged cross, so all of us could be forgiven of our sins, church leaders that go along with any kind of sin for any reason are those that Christ spoke of as being sheep in wolves clothing.

All true Americans, as well as all true Christians are voting yes on measure 9, because it is the "American" thing to do. It is true and God supports the truth.

Biblically speaking it is impossible to believe in god and vote no on measure 9.

God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of homosexuality that was centuries ago, so you can plainly

I want to relate a conversation I

overheard at a restaurant in Eugene

when I was in town for the day last

week. The more I've thought about this,

the more upset I've become so I want to

versation about some strategy to pass

Measure 9 her in Oregon. I couldn't tell

from the conversation whether the

"strategy" was a local one, regional or

ing condescendingly about Oregon voters

and how all one had to do to sway people

was to put stuff in writing -- no matter if it's

or newspaper-type newsletter that is in

the works that will be blanketed on

every person's doorstep in the few days

true--and people will believe it.

These two individuals were talk-

They talked about some brochure

I overheard two men having a con-

Letter To The Editor:

share it:

statewide.

And none of that is true. In closing measure 9 is against a group that wants "SPECIAL" rights.

All "Americans" are protected under our constitution as long as they obey the Law of God and the law of the land. And do not need anymore protection than that.

Bank robbers, dope pushers, pimps, prostitutes and yes murders, all do these things by choice. Gay, lesbian, and homosexuals live their life by choice. So if they get special rights give all who choose to live outside the law of God and the law of the land the same rights.

All of the above life styles create crime and anybody that believes Portland is suffering from criminal activity today, you haven't seen anything if measure 9 goes down to defeat.

of homosexual activities.

in print they'll believe it.

to be true.

Voting No on measure 9 is truly

They talked about making the sta-

tistics look really bad, but not too out-

rageous, about how they won't have to

state where the statistics come from ---

and again, because by people seeing it

backers of Measure 9, whether the OCA

or whoever, righteously believe the stuff

they say -- that they believe these things

nipulation of voters by out and out false

propaganda was appalling. They talked

Up to this point, I thought that the

problems; all people need to do, is give their lives to Christ. This country was founded on the Bible. Now I say if you do not like America for what it is, has been, and what the founding father prayed for it to be. Then my advice to all who do not like it, should leave it.

America and Portland has done very well without homosexuals being protected from their sinful deeds, all of these years. I feel we should let it be, let it be, let it be. Vote yes on measure 9 then and only then will your vote shine', and the light will be so bright until it will blind the homosexuals as it did to them at Sodom and Gomorrah. I am a true "American Christian" thats why I'm voting YES on measure 9.

James L. Washinton, Sr. EME Region #1 Commander United States Veterans, Inc.

about how, by making sure people get before the election. The paper will have these pamphlets and/ or newspaperlike newsletter right before the elec-

> This strategy is about contempt for the voters of Oregon. To say that we believe everything we read, that we're too gullible to think for ourselves and that we would take as "truth" somebody's statistics that don't even bother to cite their sources--that's insulting.

To my fellow Oregonians, I ask have both sides represented.

Sharon Amity

To The Editor

Bill McCoy clearly merits re-election as your State Senator for North and Northeast Portland. Let me tell you why:

Bill McCoy has a solid record of public service. As a productive veteran of the legislature he has represented your area effectively and positively. His knowledge and wisdom are a valuable asset in Salem.

Bill McCoy is proud to be a Democrat, and his record shows it. He is not afraid to stand up and fight against oppression, bigotry and self-serving corporate interests.

I strongly recommend Bill McCoy as your State Senator **Bill Bradbury** Senate Majority Leader

Dear People of Oregon:

I hear that the Question 9 proponents have been showing you videos of the San Francisco Gay Pride March to alarm you abut gay people. This is like someone showing me pictures of your neighborhood on Halloween and saying Look at these despicable people! They paint their children's faces and send them out in the street to beg!

I'm a lesbian, and I live an ordinary, quiet life with my life-partner. We go to work and pay the bills like everyone else. Please don't let the bigots persuade you to vote to make the lives of people like me more difficult.

Betsy Wright, cpringfield, MA

proponents of this measure say they are simply assuring that homosexuals will not have special rights. They imply

Letter To The Editor

The issue of ballot measure 9 is not a moral argument of "gay vs. straight, "or of "right vs. wrong," but of "ignorance vs. science." WE of the vast majority of the social science, educational, and medical communities believe that sexual orientation is determined by birth, rather than a matter of choice.

Most of us have been taught that females have two X-chromosomes and that males have one X- and one Ychromosome. This simply is not true: it is the presence of testosterone in the uterus during the early stage of fetal development that causes males to develop. If artificial testosterone is present during pregnancy, fetuses that are XX will develop as males even though they genetically are females. When women prone to spontaneous' abortion were treated with testosterone injections in the 1940s, many XX fetuses that ordinarily would have become females, instead became males.

Dr. G. Dorner, a German clinical researcher, has publicized that if, during a certain stage of gestation, testosterone levels fall below a certain point, the male child is likely to be born homosexual. By giving injections during this period, he claims that he can prevent homosexuality from occurring. Of course, many persons regard such genetic engineering as unnatural, and believe that nature (or God) intended a percentage of humans to be homosexuals, as appears to have been the case since the dawn of history.

Male hormone levels normally fluctuate in the uterus during gestation, affecting not only sexual orientation but many abilities and behaviors including intelligence and artistic and musical talent. The human brain develops over a period of nearly 30 weeks, during which time some tissues become masculinized and others become femininized, depending on complex

fluctuations of hormone levels. It is hypocritical for society to accept the variations in musical, artistic, verbal, mathematical, and other types of genius--yet single out sexual orientation, which develops just as naturally, and reject it based on ill-founded morality and cultural bias. Sexual orientation is as normal as any other behavioral bias associated with brain tissue development.

In 1984, Science Magazine reported the result of an experiment in which females, straight males and homosexual males were injected with estrogens. After four days, the Leutinizing Hormone levels (a pituitary response) were 200 percent above normal in females; 88 percent above normal in straight males; and 138 percent above normal in gay males, strongly suggesting there is a physiological difference. (Gladue, Green & Hellman, 1984: Neuroendocrine Response to Estrogen and Sexual Orientation. Science, 225:1496-98.)

The OCA does not wish to be confused with facts. Because their amendment would require the public schools teach that homosexuality is "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse," scientific research would be censored in schools. The vast majority of the scientific community believes that homosexuality is a normally occurring phenomenon in a predictable percentage of any human population or culture, past or present; and that it is no more a moral issue than having blue eyes instead of brown.

It would be a dark day for Oregonians to establish their place in history by legislating that not only should its youth be kept in ignorance, but that a significant percentage of its population should be treated as pariahs, and made to feci guilty over what to them is quite natural. To cause our children emotional problems, rather than to facilitate the development of their artistic, musiGod knows how many issues which will take years to settle in the courts, not to mention in our communities. Sincerely,

Mary Jo Lackaff

cal, literary, and other talents would be a tragic waste! When ignorance and bigotry become bedfellows, more information is needed--not less!

Sincerely,

- Carl H. Berggren, M.A.
- Historical/Personal Data

Following college, I was sent by the Department of Labor to train for work with cultural and racial minorities during Watts in 1965. Subsequently, I have spent much of my professional life working in vocational rehabilitation of disabled veterans; have taught psychology and related subjects at five of Oregon's community college campuses; have served as the founding Executive Director for Mid-Oregon AIDS (a community volunteer agency serving to provide education in the Salem area, as well as coordinate help services for persons with AIDS;) and was one of the three community organization leaders whose testimony before the emergency Board of the Oregon State Legislature led to their establishing the Oregon AIDS Task Force. I served on the original Oregon AIDS Task Force of the Health Department in working to formulate state policies regarding the handling of HIV, in areas of health, insurance, education, and all other critical areas (which policies were adopted by Gov. Goldschmidt). I am also parent to a lovely daughter who just got her degree in biochemistry from Lewis & Clark.

Prior to the above, my original vocational aspiration was to become an Assemblies of God minister, which I abandoned following three years at an east coast evangelical college and two years of theological studies at a denominational school. the reason? I could not countenance the effects for their institutionalized fear of knowledge, coupled with widespread misinformation, upon the hearts and minds of otherwise well-meaning and devout persons.

incredible propaganda and lies about how homosexuals molest children, about how much the country pays in medical costs for Aids--and how the respond with the facts. high cost of medical bills is all the fault

> you, when this strategy is carried out, when you receive this "information" on your doorstep right before the November election--please remember this scheme and look for the truth--maybe re-read the Voters Pamphlet that will

To hear these guys casually, over lunch, talking about the willful ma-

tion--it won't give anyone else time to