

# OREGON GAY RIGHTS REPORT



**Portland Town Council** Telephone 227-2765  
**408 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 408, Portland 97204**

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*By Mike Sandmeyer*

When talking about the 1981 legislative session, one could use the old line "I have some good news and some bad news." First with the bad news: The House judiciary committee defeated the amendment to Governor Atiyeh's racial harassment bill (HB 2479) that would add sexual orientation as one of the protected classes. The amendment was defeated by one vote. Peter Courtney (D-Salem) changed his mind and became the decisive negative vote. Reps. Cohen, Mason, Hendrickson and Springer all voted in favor of our amendment. HB 2479 is now in conference committee, since it has been passed by the House and Senate in different versions. The Senate version adds "sex" as one of the protected groups. In the debate on the Floor of the Senate, Rep. Margie Hendrickson and Gretchen Kafoury spoke out against the governor's ignoring of the problem of harassment for gay men and lesbians.

The good news is that Mae Yih's (R-Albany) bill, HB 3098, passed the House and Senate and has been signed by the governor. HB 3098 makes it possible for post-operative transsexuals to have the courts change their legal sex. This makes it possible for the change to be made on birth certificates, driver's licenses and passports. Only two other states currently have this law.

The good news is also in the fact that we had a strong presence in Salem this session. We showed

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## GRNL REP VISITS

Kerry Woodward, the West Coast Regional Director for Gay Rights National Lobby, was here in Portland on July 15. She appeared at a rooftop barbecue attended by members of the PTC and TCF Boards of Directors, the PTC Political Committee, and the Diversity Alliance.

Kerry's main emphasis centered around the national scene. She mentioned that the number of sponsors of the national gay rights bill, HR 1454, is down only slightly in the House of Representatives, compared to last year. HR 1454 will soon be introduced on the Senate side, and we have more sponsors in the Senate than before. Also on the national level, there is the Immigration Bill, which would make it illegal to refuse entry into the country to anyone because of their sexual orientation. Kerry warned the group of the dangers of the Family Protection Act. Even though the Family Protection Act stands little chance of passing this session, there is still the danger of parts of the Act being added on as riders to the other unrelated bills. This is the strategy used with the McDonald Amendment, which prohibits Legal Services from handling gay rights cases (see related articles).

On the local scene, Kerry expressed the necessity of getting involved in political campaigns. She stressed the importance of working on Les AuCoin's campaign, since he has been there for gays. She also emphasized the importance of getting involved early in campaigns. Early involvement enables groups to have more input in the campaign and after the election.

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both the legislators and other interest groups that, even though the times have gotten more conservative politically, we are not backing down. Gay people are just as determined to get their rights. The politicians know that we are still a force to be recognized and that we will not settle for less. With the upcoming 1982 elections being so important, I would urge each of you — our readers — to get involved in a political campaign. Do it either on your own or through Portland Town Council. By turning out in numbers for political campaigns, we will have an even stronger voice in the 1983 legislature!

### "FAMILY PROTECTION ACT" INTRODUCED AGAIN

The 1981 Family Protection Act which promotes right wing causes against women, gays, and racial minorities has been introduced by Senator Roger Jepsen (R-IA) and Representative Albert Lee Smith (R-AL). Among the many anti-justice clauses is one that would deny federal funds to any organization or entity which advocates or accepts the gay lifestyle as legitimate. The following are excerpts:

SEC. 507. No Federal funds may be made available under any provision of Federal law to any public or private individual, group, foundation, commission, corporation, association, or other entity which presents homosexuality, male or female, as an acceptable alternative life style or suggests that it can be an acceptable life style.

SEC. 508. Section 703 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(k) As used in this Act, the term 'unlawful employment practice' shall not be deemed to include

any action or measure taken by an employer, labor organization, joint labor-management committee, or employment agency with respect to an individual who is a homosexual or proclaims homosexual tendencies. No agency, bureau, commission, or other instrumentality of the Government of the United States shall seek to enforce nondiscrimination with respect to individuals who are homosexuals or who proclaim homosexual tendencies."

### FINANCIAL STATUS UPDATE

In the May newsletter we reported that it takes \$2,000 a month to keep PTC in operation. In April and May, primarily due to the appeal letter of April 10, we hit that mark. In June, income from memberships, pledges, ads, and contributions fell to \$1,268.03.

Although that last figure looks ominous, PTC is not in serious financial trouble this month — thanks to the Family Zoo's beer truck at Gay Pride Day, the Diversity Alliance's sponsorship of the Dyketones dance, Joe Anderson's Courtyard Follies at Wilde Oscar's, and Vanessa and the Imperial Rose Court's benefit show at Dahl & Penne's. The community as a whole is fortunate that we have such individuals, groups, and businesses who are our supporters.

Fundraisers, however, should provide the "extras" for the organization — not the basic bread and butter. Therefore, it is of concern that we had to rely on these special events to "make it" for June and to carry over into July, which, as we go to press, looks like an even worse month for basic income.

We hope that you will use the enclosed envelope to send whatever you can — even if it be just to cover the printing/postage costs of the newsletter. Thank you.

## Metropolitan Community Church of Portland

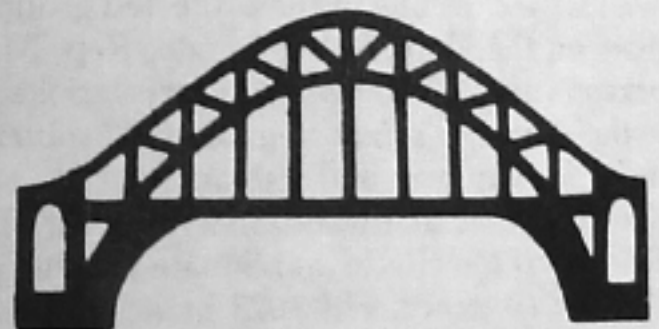
NE 24th & Broadway  
Portland, Oregon 97232  
Phone: 281-8868

Worship Services:  
Sundays: 11 a.m./6 p.m.  
Wednesdays: 8 p.m.

Ecumenical

Inclusive

Rev. Claudia L. Vierra  
Interim Pastor



## Bridgetown Realty

Deborah Betron, Broker

Lyla Peterson, Sales Associate

Don Meadows, Sales Associate

3-1263

We sponsor 5 PTC memberships with each sale!