

## OREGON'S INQUISITION XII

November 1, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: EDITORIAL | 310 Words

Editorial | Page: M02

[OpenURL Link](#)

Ask yourself the following questions. Apply only your own direct experience. If you can't honestly answer yes, Measure 9 would create a public policy harmful to you, to other Oregonians and to the state:

- Were you ever taught "homosexual behavior" or instructed in "homosexual values" in school?
- Were you or your children ever molested or recruited by a homosexual teacher?
- Is a militant homosexual agenda destroying your own family and its values?
- Has a "special right," quota, subsidy or affirmative action for homosexuals cost you a job, a promotion, a government contract or entry to a public college or community college?
- Have the schools violated your right, if you exercised it, to have your children excused from classes on sex education and sexually transmitted diseases like AIDS? If so, was it clearly part of a homosexual conspiracy?
- Have you filed a complaint that a teacher has violated the state requirement that schools must promote abstinence for school-age youth as the most responsible behavior? If so, again, was the violation clearly part of a homosexual plot?

No Oregon law says that you have to like homosexuals. Nor will there be if you vote no on 9.

Child molesting and sadistic assault are already against Oregon law. A no on 9 won't change that.

Masochism already is regarded as a mental disorder. Voting against 9 won't change that.

The degree to which homosexuality is the result of choice, heredity, hormones or social conditioning is far from settled. Refusing to label homosexuals as abnormal, unnatural and perverse won't change that.

Oregonians insist on fairness for all and no special rights for a few. That's the case now. No on 9 won't change that.

The only real issue on Nov. 3 is whether Oregon will reject a new brand of state-led affirmative action --

repression.

Oregonians want their lives to be songs in freedom's cause, not dirges ushering in a new bondage, a new dark age, a new Inquisition. So they will vote no on 9.

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## OREGON'S INQUISITION XI

October 29, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: EDITORIAL | 204 Words

Oregon Editorial | Page: D10

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: Measure 9 is a modern version of burning heretics at the stake

``Why title these editorials `Oregon's Inquisition'?" we have been asked.

Measure 9 promises behavior much like that of the 13th-century fanatics behind the medieval Inquisition.

Consider:

- Both insist on an unwavering church doctrine.
- Both brand those thought to be wayward as sinners.
- Both transform these heretics into enemies of the state.
- Both seek to purify the state and to make those who are different unwelcome or endangered.
- Both penalize non-heretics who support the outcasts' behavior.
- Both seek out heretics and those who defend them without waiting for complaints and evidence of a problem.
- Both include punishments such as public censure and loss of property or privilege -- in the modern case jobs, contracts, licenses.
- Even where the two divide, carries a vicious connection through the generations: The medieval inquisitors killed homosexuals by tying them to a stake piled high with faggots. They burned the victims along with the bundled wood.

Hence, Measure 9's link to the absolutist morality of the Middle Ages: faggot -- a label for gay men and lesbians that embraces charge, trial, conviction, sentence and execution in two searing syllables.

Those who want to resist this medieval morality will vote no on 9.

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'OREGON'S INQUISITION XI', *Oregonian, The* (online), 29 Oct 1992 D10

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## OREGON'S INQUISITION X

October 28, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: EDITORIAL | 334 Words

Editorial | Page: C06

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: Measure 9 turns neighbor against neighbor, treats a quarter-million Oregonians unjustly

You say you don't know any homosexuals. Almost impossible. By all odds, seven to 14 of the 140 graduates in your high school class -- some of them your lifelong friends -- are homosexuals. Probably a few of the teachers you admire, too.

Check the roster of your co-workers, your softball team or bowling squad. Look down the pew at church or across the aisle at volunteer fire department and PTA meetings.

Not a homosexual in sight? No limp-wristed, swish, extravagantly effeminate gay men? No sneering, domineering, deep-voiced, necktie-wearing, hairy-lipped lesbians?

The stereotypes don't apply.

Think about it. Five percent to 10 percent of our fellow Oregonians -- as many as 280,000 of our neighbors -- are lesbians or gay men.

You know some of them. Maybe quite a few. You just don't realize it.

Why? Because they are so much like you: civil, modest, fair and constructive in the workplace, at public events and on the playing fields; nurturing as parents. Like you, they are community builders, not wreckers.

They express their sexuality in private, as do most Oregonians. They don't inflict it on others. They are not sexual missionaries, recruiting converts. They don't "teach homosexuality" in the schools. They don't sexually attack and abuse children.

Are there homosexual criminals, predators and obscene exhibitionists? Of course. But far fewer than their heterosexual counterparts.

Yet Measure 9 lumps all homosexuals with the outrageous, the criminal and the mentally disturbed.

That's as unfair as condemning all clergymen as child molesters because some do it. It's as unjust as

stereotyping Italians as Mafiosi, Jews as Shylocks, Irish as drunkards or loggers and ranchers as rapers of the land.

A just society simply doesn't do that. By the same standard, fair-minded Oregonians will refuse to brand all homosexuals as perverse.

Unprejudiced Oregonians will wonder who next will be inscribed on bigotry's hit list. They won't let passion or hysteria overrule decency and judgment. They will vote no on 9.

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## OREGON'S INQUISITION IX

October 25, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: EDITORIAL | 309 Words

Editorial | Page: K02

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary:

Do you want to live in the `Hate State'?

The national and international press has descended on Oregon to probe the letter, the spirit and the consequences of Measure 9. Articles and television shows describe the anti-homosexual initiative as hateful, bigoted, deceptive, intolerant, perverse and the work of bully-boys.

The abscess beneath the surface of the stories is their image of Oregon as a place where bigotry has cast off its cover. Last week alone, The Oregonian received more than 400 letters to the editor on Measure 9 from states outside the Northwest.

Typical letters express dismay and anger. Other writers say that if Oregon brands homosexuality as abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse, they, in turn, will brand Oregon the ``Hate State."

Shun them, and we'll shun you, many others vow.

Most declare that they will not enter Oregon for personal visits, business trips, conferences, conventions or stops at cultural draws like the Ashland Shakespearean Festival.

Others say they will organize boycotts against all Oregon mail-order businesses, and they name prominent companies such as Norm Thompson in Portland and Harry & David, the Medford orchardist.

Of course, none of this is fair.

But neither is Measure 9. Its provisions and the Oregon Citizens Alliance campaign for its passage unfairly link all homosexuals with criminal child molesters and mentally disturbed or mentally ill child abusers, sadists and masochists.

Vengeance is ours, say the targets of the OCA's campaign of defamation.

In 1972, Gov. Tom McCall invited tourists to ``travel, visit, drink in the beauty of our state. But for God's sake, don't move here." Twenty years later, Oregon still fights a reputation for being inhospitable.

Think how much tougher it will be to fight a reputation for being mean-spirited, nasty and intolerant.

Immense damage has been done already. Oregonians who want to start repairing these wounds must vote no on 9.

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## OREGON'S INQUISITION VIII

October 23, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: EDITORIAL | 278 Words

Editorial | Page: C08

[OpenURL Link](#)

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal . . .," shouts the Declaration of Independence.

No they're not, shouts Measure 9.

That's how basic the battle is. That's why the world watches Oregon with horror and astonishment:

Measure 9, as part of the Oregon Constitution, would be a knife severing an artery and draining the life-blood of our national declaration of freedom.

The fight teaches us again that liberty is always unfinished business.

Part of America's tradition of liberty is that the family be the fount of values that flow to younger generations, and that the state not usurp the role.

Yet Measure 9 forces the state to intrude deeply into the affairs of the family as well as into the schools.

It requires educators to teach that homosexuality is wrong, perverse, unnatural and to be discouraged. It encourages stereotyping and scapegoating to enforce pinched judgments about morality.

This undermines parental authority. It runs counter to the ethical principles tens of thousands of parents try to instill in their children. It takes a core duty of standards-setting from parents, no matter what their personal beliefs. At the same time, it cripples teachers' capacity to teach against discrimination.

This so-called family-values campaign orders the teaching of prejudice under the guise of moral righteousness. It debases the very values it says that it fosters.

Measure 9 shifts parents' authority to the state, where values will be decided by fickle majorities in every future election.

The outcomes of Measure 9 are suspicion, surveillance, censorship and discrimination.

Oregonians who study Measure 9 will see it as hysteria masquerading as righteousness. They will see

through it Nov. 3 and vote no on 9.

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## OREGON'S INQUISITION VII

October 22, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: EDITORIAL | 303 Words

Editorial | Page: D08

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: Measure 9's oppression of homosexuals is not action in defense of the family or family values

Imagine the state keeping a mother from her child. Imagine the state keeping a child from her father.

One hymn sung by Measure 9's backers is more painfully off-key to its targets than any other. It is the chant that gay men and lesbians are unfit to serve as foster parents, adoptive parents or custodial parents after divorce.

Measure 9 describes homosexuality as abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse; orders the state not to promote such behavior; and directs it to avoid and discourage the activity. In other words, homosexuals would be branded in the Oregon Constitution as people of immoral character.

A steady drumbeat in the background of the Measure 9 campaign is that recognition of gay families in Oregon's family and juvenile courts amounts to promoting and facilitating homosexuality. An especially grating and hurtful undertone is that these parents are inordinate threats to their own children.

Measure 9's targets are terrified that they will be denied custody rights, visitation rights and adoption/foster-care privileges if the anti-homosexual initiative passes.

Look at the slanders they suffer:

- Myth: Denying custody or visitation rights to homosexual parents prevents homosexuality in children.
- Myth: Giving custody only to a non-homosexual parent prevents homosexuality in children.
- Myth: Homosexuality is contagious. Studies indicate second-generation homosexuals are rare.
- Myth: Homosexuals cannot be good parents. There are as many styles of gay parenting as of heterosexual parenting. Sexual proclivity says nothing about the ability to nurture.

Passage of Measure 9 could force Oregon judges automatically to bar homosexuals as fit parents and could force the judges to disregard the state's proper prevailing standard: the best interests of the child.

Measure 9 sends all Oregon voters on a search for their conscience. Those who reach a just, compassionate conclusion will vote no on 9.

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## OREGON'S INQUISITION VI

October 21, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: EDITORIAL | 212 Words

Editorial | Page: B06

[OpenURL Link](#)

Pitiless puritanism is a vice in its own right. The militant, anti-homosexual mania behind Measure 9 threatens Oregon with adopting an immoral, degenerate public policy.

Measure 9 would overthrow the Golden Rule of reciprocal decency that is at the core of Oregon's tradition of trying to treat mainstream groups and minorities alike; that is, fairly.

Oregon's fairness code is Article I, Section 20 of the state Constitution: "No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens privileges, or immunities, which, upon the same terms, shall not belong to all citizens."

In short, Oregon's basic charter already says "no special rights."

The commanders-in-chief of the Measure 9 outrage at the Oregon Citizens Alliance have constructed a scaffold of deception. They contend that lesbians and gay men are conspiring to acquire rights, privileges and immunities denied other Oregonians. The claims are bankrupt. The threat is empty.

Oregon is slowly evolving toward equal rights for all. That does not constitute special rights for some.

Democracy must always protect the minority voice. Measure 9 would censor and throttle that voice.

Support for or neutrality on this issue favors the oppressor. Each Oregonian with the courage to vote for fairness and tolerance on Nov. 3 will help to constitute a moral majority. That majority will say no to 9.

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## OREGON'S INQUISITION V

October 20, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: EDITORIAL | 293 Words

Oregon Editorial | Page: B10

[OpenURL Link](#)

Measure 9, on the statewide ballot Nov. 3, is a vessel into which Oregonians are pouring frustration and anger.

Some flows from Christian fundamentalists who regard Measure 9 as an antidote to what they see as sin without repentance by homosexuals.

Some streams from civil-rights defenders toward the Oregon Citizens Alliance for the slanders in its measure and for its grotesque portrayals of most gay men and lesbians.

Measure 9 is also drenched with another Niagara of discontent. That comes from Oregonians who hold no grudges against homosexuals but who hate public indecency.

Feeding that anger is an OCA videotape of gay-pride parades in San Francisco. The tape shows tasteless, tactless, tawdry sexual exhibitionists reveling in obscene misbehavior.

If such vulgarity doesn't offend you, you need a values check.

What the OCA edited out, though, offends decency more than the pornography it included. Deleted from the tapes were pictures of thousands of conventionally dressed gay men and lesbians. They were marching with civility and decorum.

These people march to denounce gay-bashing, which the Justice Department confirms is one of the nation's leading crimes. They march to show solidarity against anti-homosexual discrimination in jobs, housing and public accommodations. They seek equal protections, not special rights -- no minority status, no affirmative action, no job quotas.

Most are indistinguishable in their public behavior from their heterosexual neighbors and co-workers.

By ignoring this huge majority of the homosexual community, the OCA casts the freaks as the standard.

This is false stereotyping. It uses big-lie tactics. It is inflammatory, hate-provoking propaganda.

The guilt-by-association tactics deliberately defame good citizens who -- like most Oregonians -- despise

sexual exhibitionism in public as degrading.

The OCA portrayal is part of a wretched, unfair plot to curb homosexuals' civil rights. Vote no on 9.

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## OREGON'S INQUISITION IV

October 15, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: EDITORIAL | 304 Words

Oregon Editorial | Page: B08

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: Hate crimes are on the rise in the wake of Measure 9, and we haven't even voted yet

The authors of Measure 9 say they love the gay and lesbian targets of their anti- homosexual initiative.

Please, no, the honor is too great!

In fact, the Oregon Citizens Alliance is inflaming hatred. Its leaders are massaging the meaner instincts of the gullible and the malicious among us.

Measure 9 stigmatizes homosexuals as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse." It directs the state to set standards that will discourage such behavior. Oregon's haters and loonies have already interpreted this as an invitation to engage in their own sick varieties of civic activism.

A grand jury in Salem last Friday issued aggravated-murder indictments against four suspects for the Sept. 26 firebomb killings of Hattie Mae Cohens, 29, a black lesbian, and Brian H. Mock, 45, a white homosexual. One indictment alleges that the crimes occurred because of "defendants' perception of the race, color and sexual orientation" of the victims.

And on Sunday, vandals spray-painted "Yes on 9," "We hate gays," anti-Hispanic and anti-Semitic graffiti in the sanctuary of St. Matthews Roman Catholic Church in Hillsboro, and then set a fire in the rectory.

Both unquestionably are hate crimes. Yet if Measure 9 were in effect, the Oregon hate-crime law could not be applied to them. Oregon's shield against gay-bashing would be struck down because the state could not recognize any category such as "sexual orientation" or "sexual preference."

Measure 9's leaders do not condone criminality, but they ignore a crucial lesson:

Labels are dangerous; degrading stereotypes are worse; and bigotry engraved in the Oregon Constitution would make the government a co-conspirator in releasing the lunatic fringe to scourge the state's own citizens.

We haven't even voted, yet hate levels are high and rising. They will soar if Measure 9 passes.

Vote no on 9.

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## OREGON'S INQUISITION III

October 14, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: EDITORIAL | 320 Words

Oregon Editorial | Page: B08

[OpenURL Link](#)

One chant of Measure 9 backers particularly inflames Oregonians. The tune, sung with a variety of verses, pushes the theme that public-school teachers systematically recruit, seduce, entice, encourage and facilitate their students' entry into homosexual behavior.

Such outrageous activity would offend almost all Oregonians, heterosexuals and homosexuals alike.

And they would complain.

The judge would be Oregon's Teacher Standards & Practices Commission. Its 17 members certify educators and discipline those who stray.

So listen to longtime teachers Alma R. Thompson and Deanna Woods, members and chairwomen of the commission during 1986-91:

``One of the most unpleasant tasks demanded of the commission is the investigation and discipline of educators for a variety of behaviors that are forbidden by statute or considered inappropriate for those entrusted with the instruction of children.

``As you might suppose, an amazing number of complaints are made . . . Never, in six years of listening to parental and school-district complaints, did we hear one against an individual for teaching `homosexual values,' whatever they may be.

``In addition, of cases involving major sexual misconduct or even questionable judgment by teachers in their treatment of students, virtually all of them were heterosexual in nature . . . If over 2 percent involved any kind of homosexual predation, we would be startled to hear it."

Clearly, then, campaign psalms about ``homosexual promotion" in schools are not hymns to truth.

Moreover, the background music is the sound of axes being ground.

If Measure 9 passes, teachers and counselors who fail to tell students that homosexual feelings and behavior are ``abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse" could lose their jobs.

Insights that genetics, biochemistry, psychiatry and psychology might bring to human sexuality will be irrelevant unless they confirm Measure 9 backers' reading of the Bible. Classroom debate or dissent would no longer be inquiry, but heresy.

The only conspiracy aimed at Oregon's students is Measure 9's attempt to make their schools poor soil in which to plant ideas. Vote no on 9.

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## OREGON'S INQUISITION II

October 12, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: EDITORIAL | 321 Words

Editorial Oregon | Page: B06

[OpenURL Link](#)

The manipulators behind Measure 9 tried to link homosexuals to those who engage in sex with animals and with corpses.

Their pornographic hallucinations made them a laughingstock. So they retreated a step, then returned.

The current version of their ballot measure continues to associate gays and lesbians with child molesters, sadists and masochists; that is, with criminals and the mentally ill.

It's still slander. Measure 9's deceivers still bear false witness against 5 percent to 10 percent of our neighbors and co-workers. These are Oregonians whose same-sex behavior is done in private, with consenting adults, never involves children, violates no laws and shows none of the social pathologies that legal, medical and psychological professionals associate with mental illness and crime.

Yet the pious, self-proclaimed judges who wrote 9 would sentence homosexuals to a civic hell -- supposedly in the name of a just heaven.

Look into one corner of that hell, from the vantage of the Portland Psychological Association:

``As psychologists, we are aware of the damage done by pedophiles, who are overwhelmingly heterosexual -- most often family members. There are no empirical data that link homosexuality with pedophilia or other sexual behaviors in the fashion the Oregon Citizens Alliance suggests in order to instill fear.

``The implications of the measure are frightening. As psychologists we could be forced, because our licenses are issued by the state of Oregon, to condemn and judge homosexual clients who may seek out mental-health services.

``Homosexual teen-agers, a group at tremendous risk for suicide and other harmful behaviors, would be further stigmatized and less likely to seek help."

These mental-health professionals are bound by codes of ethics to ``protect the dignity and worth of individuals." Yet the authors of the arrogant deceptions in Measure 9 would have school psychologists, for example, intone to your distressed teen-agers that their homosexual feelings and behavior are

“abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse.”

This is the moral equivalent of pulling wings off flies. Vote no on 9.

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## OREGON'S INQUISITION I

October 11, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: EDITORIAL | 325 Words

Editorial | Page: C06

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: Measure 9 sponsors use Big Lie tactics to brand all homosexuals as abominations and threats to society

Leaders of the Oregon Citizens Alliance, the would-be ayatollahs of our collective morals, have emerged again this election season bearing a bigoted message of social division.

Their ghastly gospel this time is Measure 9 on the statewide ballot Nov. 3. It is a bizarre, sloppy mixture of stereotype and malice toward homosexuality and homosexuals.

If engraved into the state constitution, Measure 9 would brand up to 280,000 of our fellow Oregonians as second-class citizens. Their legal behavior -- even that of consenting adults in private -- would be declared "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse." They would be linked in the state's basic charter with criminals and the mentally ill such as pedophiles and sadists.

Thousands of Oregonians object to homosexuality for religious reasons. There is no impertinent attempt here to intrude into this matter of faith.

Measure 9, however, is not a referendum on homosexuality, but a vote to limit, even remove, civil rights. A vote against 9 will not express approval of homosexual behavior. But a vote for 9, as many religious leaders realize, will express approval for the OCA deceivers and manipulators who bear false witness against our neighbors.

Oregon faces a clear and present danger of becoming the first state since the Civil War to withdraw civil rights instead of adding to them.

From now until Election Day, Oregon needs its good people to read and listen to the news, analyses and commentaries on Measure 9.

There is no alibi here for the crime of indifference.

There is no room here for the secret complicity of neutrality.

There is no justification here for the sin of silence.

There is no excuse here for the brutality of non-involvement.

Informed Oregonians will raise their shields against Measure 9's purveyors of discord and deception.

Informed Oregonians of all moral suasions will not be duped by the OCA's apostles of fear. They will vote no on 9.

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