survive
State Senator John Briggs, choosing his words and his locale with great care, on May 1 filed his initiative measure that could remove homosexual teachers from public schools in California. Although most of the 500,000 signatures were filed in Los Angeles, Briggs chose San Francisco as the place to file the first 1,000 names because, he said, "it's the moral garbage dump of homosexuality in this country." John Briggs is the invisible man in the Republican race for the governor's nomination, but the fact that he's a distant fifth in a five-man race doesn't bother him one bit.

The ultra-conservative senator from Orange County believes that like the famous come-from-behind horse Silky Sullivan, he can go from last to first by election day on June 6. "Even though it's hard to find anyone who thinks Briggs has a chance at all," he claims, "I don't have a lot of money and a campaign strategy that will turn the race around.

"Our plan is to come in late with a big radio and television campaign," he explained in a recent interview. "When those other guys start to run out of money, we'll be going strong." Briggs, who boasted that "we haven't spent a penny yet," said he expects to spend $500,000 in the last few weeks to go from two percent, his position in the most recent California poll, to the 30 percent he believes will be needed to win the nomination. At the same time, Briggs will attempt to tie his candidacy to the three issues he has promoted for months—tougher death penalty law, an anti-homosexual teacher law and Proposition 13, the Jarvis-Gann tax limitation initiative.

"I'm the guy leading the fight on those gut issues," he said. "What we're going to try to do is convert the support for those issues into support for my candidacy. Can we do it? I don't really know, but we're going to try." Briggs' secret weapon is a computer tape containing the names, he claims, of 700,000 California households where the residents support one, two or all three of his pet issues. Using direct mail, as well as television, he hopes to turn supporters of those issues into supporters of John Briggs.

Only one of Briggs' key issues, Proposition 13, is on the June ballot, but he expects to qualify the other two as initiatives in November. Nothing would please him more, he said, than to run against Jerry Brown with the death penalty and an anti-gay teacher measure on the same ballot. Briggs recognizes the fact that the Briggs initiative, and his much-publicized journey to Miami last year to campaign along with the Anti-Bryant in her "gay-gate" teacher crusade, changed him from a little-known legislator from Fullerton into a well-known figure, if not exactly universally admired, personality.

Briggs' controversial views bring him a substantial amount of unfriendly mail, although he says it is a dribble compared to the flood of mail he gets supporting him.

The state senator, a born-again Christian at the age of eight and a Catholic since his wife encouraged him to convert, also says he is wrongfully accused of being intolerant. "I'm actually a tolerant person," he said. "You can disagree with me and I won't hate you. This incorrect image of intolerance just because I'm not willing to let this wave that says homosexuality is normal roll over me.

Briggs said he considers it "morally degenerate" for society to accept homosexuality, but has nothing against what people do in private.

"As long as they don't bring it into the classroom, I don't care what they do," he said about his initiative aimed at gay teachers and other school workers. "Homosexuality shouldn't be taught as an acceptable alternative lifestyle."

Briggs also said he has never had a homosexual experience, although "I saw enough of that sort of thing during four years in the Air Force. But I figure it was their business, not mine." Despite his self-described tolerance, however, he added that homosexuals "don't belong in the military." -S.F. Chronicle

**BACABI Rally and Conference May 12 & 13**

BACABI, the Bay Area Committee Against the Briggs Initiative has announced plans for a rally and conference, May 12 and 13.

The rally, to be held Saturday, May 12 at 7:30 PM at First Congregational Church at Post and Mason Streets in San Francisco, will feature speakers from local trade unions, school and college instructors and workers and others. Speakers will include: Sally Gerhart, professor at San Francisco State University (and featured in the film WORD IS OUT); James Ballard, president of American Federation of Teachers, Local 61; Stan Smith, president of the Building and Trades Council, AFL-CIO; as well as speakers from Native American and Third World groups.

The conference, set for 10 AM, Saturday, May 13 at Galileo High School (at 1055 Bay Street, between Van Ness and Polk) will have as its purpose to organize and form a broad-based, state-wide coalition of groups and individuals to defeat the Briggs Initiative, and plan for the election of a co-sexual and multi-racial Northern California Coordinating Committee. The conference will consist of plenary sessions and task-oriented workshops.

The Briggs Initiative affects the rights of all people, for any school worker—homosexual or heterosexual—could be fired for expressing an opinion in support of gay rights, in or outside the classroom. Indeed, the Briggs Initiative is a serious threat to the civil liberties of all Californians. Women, minorities, and organized labor especially must unite with the gay movement to protect the freedom of speech and right of employment.

The Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Alliance is one of many groups and individuals endorsing or co-sponsoring this conference and all interested groups and individuals are urged to attend.

Housing and/or childcare assistance can be provided on advance notice by calling (415) 752-0507 or (415) 863-4665.

**Locals To Fight Briggs**

The Coalition Against the Briggs Initiative of Sonoma County will meet at 7:30 PM, Tuesday, May 23, at the California Teachers' Association head-quarters, 2490 Guerneville Road, (Near Fulton Road), Santa Rosa. Both individuals and organizational representatives are urged to attend. For further information call 433-5693.

The Attorney General of California has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure. This will appear on petitions now being circulated by the "California Defend Our Children" organization.

**SCHOOL EMPLOYEES** - **HOMOSEXUALITY INITIATIVE STATUTE**

Provides for filing charges against school teachers, teacher's aides, school administrators or counselors who advocate, solicit, impose, encourage or promote private or public sexual acts defined in section 286(a) and 288(a) of the penal code between persons of the same sex in a manner likely to come to the attention of other employees or students; or publicize, and make public in said acts. Prohibits hiring and requires dismissal of such persons if School Board determines unfitness of service after considering enumerated guidelines. In dismissal cases only, provides for summary proceedings, written findings, judicial review. Financial impact: UNKNOWN, but potentially substantial local cost to school districts depending on the number of cases which receive an administrative hearing.
Lesbian Mother Source List Available

Finally, a very valuable "Lesbian Mother's Resource Manual" has been published for $150 from Iris Films, Box 2463, Los Angeles, CA 90026. It lists sources of legal counseling, emotional support, expert advice, and relevant assistance, and includes case histories; classes; and reference materials on the books on the subject. The list was compiled by Mary Ann Jones, who is editing a book that supplements Iris Films' IN THE INTERESTS OF THE CHILDREN. — NGTF

Lesbian Organization Establishes ClassPolicy

A National Lesbian Feminist Organization was founded in March of 1978. The organization is in the process of adopting a few policy concerns in order to better represent the interests of its membership. The organization's goals are to promote feminism for all women, to support women's rights, and to fight for the abolition of sexism. They have also expressed interest in promoting education and awareness about the struggles of women, particularly in the context of class and race.

Lesbian Mothers Sought In Study

Lesbian mothers with custody of children in the Los Angeles area are being sought as participants in an upcoming study. The purpose of the study is to identify the special needs of families headed by lesbians and to serve as a resource for women who are interested in learning more about single-mother families. The study will provide a wide range of services to meet those needs. All information will be held in strict confidence, and names will not be published. To volunteer, or for further information, contact Ellen Lewis, Phil. D. (anthropology), at (415) 666-3193; or write to the Lesbian Mothers with Children Project, San Francisco, California.

Lesbians in Arcata May 12-14

There will be a Lesbian Conference held in Arcata, May 12 & 13. The conference will consist of workshops, talks, and social events, and will be a celebration of the strengths and achievements of the lesbian community. The location is the Siskiyou College Conference Center in Po Box 1504, Eureka, CA 95504.

River Queen Benefit May 27

There will be a benefit for the River Queen Women's Center, presented by and for women, May 27 at the Center at 1740 River Rd., Guerneville.

Women of Color Organizing Statewide

The Organization For Women of Color in Los Angeles (OWC) is working on the process of organizing statewide. The group is committed to promoting the interests of women of color, and to highlighting the unique experiences and challenges faced by women of color in the region. They are seeking to establish a network of support and resources for women of color in Los Angeles and the surrounding areas.

Discrimination Against Women

Completion of the document is not expected until the next session which is anticipated to begin in September 1978. The first legal backing instrument that aims at eliminating discrimination and every practice that targets women throughout the world. Built into the document will be new enforcement procedures. -Advocate

Polaroid Marks $3,000 For Lesbian Mothers

The Polaroid Foundation has given $3,000 for "service to Lesbian mothers" to the Janus Counseling Association of San Francisco. The money will be used to promote awareness and understanding of the needs and experiences of lesbian mothers. -Advocate

County Supervisors Join Pro-ERA Boycott

Sonoma County Supervisors have launched a boycott against states that have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. On a 3-2 vote, the board Tuesday passed a resolution stating that the county will not accept federal dollars from states that have not adopted the amendment.

The resolution also called for the discontinuation of the Janus Counseling Service, thirty-nine states must adopt the amendment for it to be ratified, and thus far 32 states have adopted it. Three others adopted it, then rescinded it. -Advocate
Eugene Defends Rights May 23

A crucial West Coast challenge to gay rights will take place in Eugene, Oregon on May 23 as hundreds of citizens of that city will be asked to vote on a referendum to amend the city's civil rights ordinance which protects gay citizens from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. After the repeal of a similar ordinance in St. Paul, Minnesota, a coalition of local activists, has agreed on a three-part approach to the campaign.

First, they believe that a tactic which failed in St. Paul is to emphasize the religious aspect of the campaign, when the anti-choice groups have been more successful in focusing on sexuality and relationships. Eugene is a traditional source of liberal support, and the group is trying to educate people about gay people as being at stake.

They want to present a campaign which manages to present a clear defense of the civil rights of other people, and to present a common ground for the rights of gay people as being at stake.

The estimated cost of the campaign is $5,000, which must be raised quickly. Oregonians have averaged 1%-2% of their annual incomes for the national election.

SCLGA Conference Seeks Recruits

Recruiting is continuing for the lesbian and gay experience and the coming-out of the conference, which is being held at the Portland Marriott Downtown on Saturday, May 18. The conference will be held at the Portland Marriott Downtown and is being held in conjunction with the Oregon Gay Pride Weekend and the Oregon Gay Pride Parade. The conference is being planned and sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Alliance of Oregon (LGA), which is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the civil rights of lesbians and gay men.

The conference will feature plenary sessions, panel discussions, workshops, and a variety of breakout sessions. The themes for the conference include: Gay Rights and the State, The Politics of Identity, and The Media.

The conference will be held on Saturday, May 18 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Portland Marriott Downtown. The cost of the conference is $35 for members of the LGA and $45 for non-members. For more information, please contact the LGA at 503-236-7474.

SRJC Men's Conference Features Gay Workshops

The second Annual Men's Conference will be held at the Santa Rosa Junior College in Santa Rosa, California on March 23rd. The conference is being held to provide a safe and supportive environment for men in the gay community to explore their issues and experiences. The conference will feature a variety of workshops and events, including workshops on gay identity, gay relationships, and gay politics. The conference will also feature keynote speakers and panel discussions. For more information, please contact the conference organizers at 707-527-4373 or srmconference@srjc.edu.
**World News Briefs**

**Oklahoma Legislature Passes Anti-Gay Teacher Bill**

**SFO News Briefs**

**Gay Man Wins Child Custody**

Howard Jarvis, co-author of the California Proposition 6, lost his battle to ban same-sex marriages. The San Francisco Bay Guardian reported on January 18, 1983, that Jarvis had lost his case in the Superior Court of San Francisco. The court ruled in favor of the gay man, who had sought custody of his son, believing that the child's best interests would be served by a gay parent. Jarvis had argued that gay parents would not be able to provide a stable environment for the child, but the court found that the gay parent was capable of providing such care.

**Task Force Begins Work With Federal Prisons**

A group of representatives from gay organizations met in Washington, D.C., to discuss with officials from the Department of Justice about possible changes in the way gay prisoners are treated in federal prisons. The group, which included representatives from the National Gay Task Force, the National Lawyers Guild, and other organizations, was formed to address concerns about the treatment of gay and lesbian prisoners in federal facilities. The meeting was part of a larger effort to improve conditions for gay and lesbian inmates, who often face discrimination and harassment in prison settings.

**Key to Sources**

Most of the non-county pub- 
lished in this newspaper comes from the Gay Community News, which provides news and analysis about the LGBTQ+ community. The following is a list of sources used by the reporter:

- **GCN** — Gay Community News, Boston, MA.
- **TPB** — The Body Politic, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- **SEN** — The Sentinel, San Francisco, CA.
- **LH** — The Lesbian News, Los Angeles, CA.
- **NPTF** — National Gay Task Force Newsletter, New York, NY.