

## The Gay Opposition

■ Calling it "the beginning of a 10-year movement on our part to fight the right wing," the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund held a three-day workshop in Washington last weekend to organize opposition to anti-gay rights ballot measures. Thirty-three activists representing 11 states attended and exchanged advice on how to build coalitions and counteract right-wing strategies.

Conservatives have enjoyed a flurry of anti-gay victories at the polls in recent years. In 1993 alone, a gay rights law was repealed in Cincinnati; a gay rights resolution failed in Portsmouth, N.H.; and anti-gay initiatives passed in 14 Oregon cities and counties.

The fund, which was founded in 1991 to raise money for openly gay and lesbian candidates, is broadening its mission in the face of such challenges. Executive director William Waybourn says the major incentive of the far right in opposing gay rights is fund-raising.

Rick Tafel, who heads the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay organization, seems to agree. In response to a statement by Christian Coalition director Ralph Reed that the coalition will pursue an agenda of economic issues, Tafel said, "Focusing on economics alone does not make them money. Abortion and gay-bashing do."

—Christopher B. Daly  
and Ann O'Hanlon