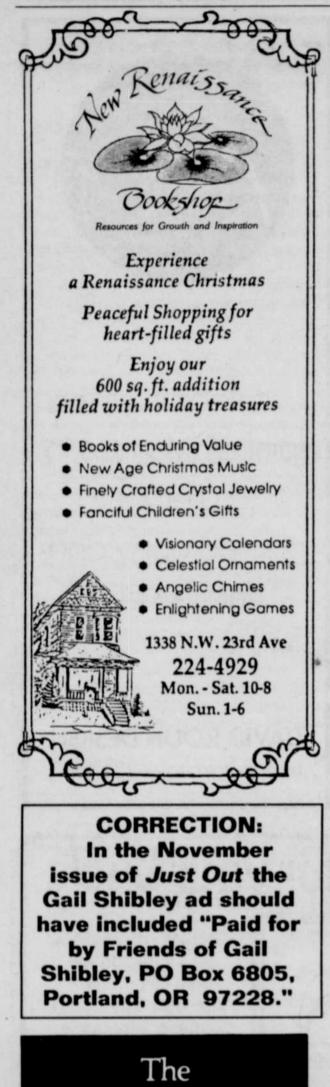
10 ▼ December 1991 ▼ just out



OCA watch

A busy month for the Oregon Citizens Alliance. It files a suit against Portland, an action in Corvallis, a counterclaim against Just Out photographer and fraternized with Helms, Quayle, and Robertson

by Inga Sorensen

OCA sues Portland

The ultraconservative Oregon Citizens Alliance is suing the city of Portland over its new ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. The suit, filed a few weeks ago in Multnomah County Circuit Court, maintains the ordinance runs counter to state law. On Oct. 3, the City Council unanimously approved the civil rights measure which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation and source of income in employment, housing and public accommodations. Last session, Oregon state lawmakers failed to approve similar legislation, a factor the suit cites as evidence of the state's position on the matter.

City officials, meanwhile, say they're confident the ordinance will hold up in court, saying such details were examined prior to the City Council's action. The suit was filed on behalf of Casey's Plumbing Inc., which is owned by Bill Casey, OCA Multnomah County director. The group has also filed a local ballot initiative that would amend the city charter to prohibit, in part, "government promotion, encouragement or facilitation of homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism and masochism." That initiative was filed on behalf of the OCA's No Special Rights Committee, which must gather 17,542 signatures by Jan. 20, 1992, to get the proposal on the May 19 primary ballot.

Action in Corvallis

Striving to follow in Portland's footsteps, the Corvallis City Council hopes to pass an ordinance later this month prohibiting and punishing discrimination and hate crimes against lesbians and gays. OCA officials are trying to block the measure and have filed a local ballot initiative banning the city from including sexual orientation in its proposed civil rights legislation. City Councilor Prudence Miles says the OCA's attempts to deny basic human rights to lesbians and gays have given the council "an even stronger resolve to pass the ordinance." She admits, however, the OCA is making its presence felt. "They have a well-organized letter writing campaign to the editor and they're keeping a close watch on everyone," she explains. "For example, a church here was recently exploring forming a gay and lesbian support group, and an OCA member made sure to be there to protest. We also held a public hearing regarding the ordinance, and the OCA stacked the place. They had about 30 members there, and there was only one proponent on hand...It just shows how important it is for people to come forth and speak out, write letters and get involved." Efforts are underway to combat the OCA's attack on Corvallis' gay and lesbian community. A lawsuit has been filed on behalf of representatives of After 8, a gay and lesbian action group, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Corvallis chapter of the National Organization for Women. After 8 spokesperson Nan Dudek says the suit challenges the initiative's ballot title and summary, and could conceivably stall the OCA's efforts to collect enough petition signatures by the Jan. 20, 1992, deadline. She also says a local political action committee has been formed. "Assuming the initiative gets on the ballot, we're going to need money to develop a campaign as well as people to ring doorbells," she says. The local PAC, called the Human Rights Coalition, is seeking monetary contributions and contact from other groups that may want to get involved. For further information call (503)752-8157, or write Human Rights Coalition, 101 Northwest 23rd, Corvallis, Ore., 97330.

OCA counterclaim

The OCA filed a counterclaim Nov. 22 against Just Out photographer Catherine Stauffer, saying she trespassed while attending an OCA-sponsored event. Stauffer previously filed a lawsuit in Multnomah County Circuit Court. She is seeking at least \$350,000 in damages stemming from the Oct. 8 incident in which she was allegedly assaulted by OCA spokesman Scott Lively while attending the group's premiere screening of its new anti-gay video. The suit charges Lively grabbed Stauffer in a "rough and violent manner" as he removed her from the screening at Portland's Foursquare Church. Stauffer, who was attending as a private citizen, had received a formal invitation to the event.

Stauffer's case is garnering widespread attention. Both the nationally-distributed newspaper USA Today and the CBS news program "48 Hours," caught wind of the suit that charges the OCA and Lively with assault and battery. USA Today ran a few lines about the case after it was filed, and CBS news contacted Stauffer and her attorney Bradley Woodworth for further information. Woodworth says a producer and crew from CBS's "48 Hours" program are considering a trip to Oregon next month. "I think they want to do a story about reactionary groups that fear social change," he says. "It would appear the OCA may fit the bill." Stauffer, who spoke with producer Tim Clifford, says he found her story "emotionally compelling."

One other note-Stauffer says since the incident, she's received a certified letter from the OCA saying it was "an official notice that your presence is not welcome at any future OCA meetings..."

Set the record straight

Angered that the OCA's video links homosexuality with pedophilia, Portland resident Ellen O'Malley contacted Just Out to tell us her former husband, a man "strongly against gays," and a "faithful follower of the Foursquare Church" was serving prison-time for sodomizing her daughter.

Portland's Foursquare Church was the sight of the OCA's Oct. 8 premiere screening of its video that implies gays are the primary perpetrators of pedophilia. The church has also been named as a defendant in Just Out photographer Catherine Stauffer's lawsuit against the OCA.

"When I heard the video was being played at the Foursquare Church I could not believe it," says O'Malley. "The hypocrisy is incredible. Here the video was saying gays did this kind of thing to children, and my ex-husband, a faithful follower of the Foursquare Church, was in jail for abusing my daughter." O'Malley says her former husband, Kevin James O'Malley, was actively involved in the Gresham-based Foursquare Church and "had friends at the church in Portland." She adds, "It just didn't seem right that gays were having this pinned on them."

According to Valerie Right, chief deputy district attorney for Lincoln County, Kevin O'Malley pleaded guilty last year the three counts of sodomy against O'Malley's daughter and is serving three consecutive prison sentences for the crimes. Ellen O'Malley says she and her ex-husband had moved for a short time to Lincoln County. She has since moved back to Portland.

The East Hill Foursquare Church in Gresham says it has no records of Kevin O'Malley being a member. Church Treasurer Mark Gale also says "no one in the office" recalls knowing a Kevin O'Malley who was active in the church's activities.

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Video mania

Nearly a month after Just Out detailed the contents of the OCA's new anti-gay video, the group presented the tape to the media-at-large during a screening at the Portland Hilton. In November, we described for you the video's contents, which essentially portrays gays as freaks eager to sexually abuse children. It has been described as "flat-out propaganda" and a "total misrepresentation of the lesbian and gay community."

During the Hilton press screening, the OCA's Scott Lively attempted to remove Just Out columnist Linda Shirley, who was attending in her capacity as a KBOO radio reporter. According to Shirley, Lively told her she had to leave because the screening was for "invited press only." Just Out and KBOO did not receive OCA invitations. "At that point I told him he couldn't manipulate the press that way," explains Shirley, adding Lively then turned off the video and stood directly in front of her. "I said 'Are you going to do to me what you did to Catherine Stauffer?' That's when the television cameras turned to us and started rolling." Shirley says it was then that OCA leader Lon Mabon told Lively to let her stay.

The OCA hopes to distribute 10,000 copes of its inaccurate and inflammatory video in its effort to amend the state constitution to declare homosexuality "perverse and abnormal."

OCA co-founder Joe Lutz joined Vice President Dan Quayle and North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., at a gathering to celebrate the Rev. Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition. Robertson is host of the conservative religious program "The 700 Club" on his Christian Broadcasting Network, and was a presidential contender in 1988. His Christian Coalition, which handles a host of political activities, invited Lutz and 15 other congressional candidates to a reception with prospective donors during the recent Virginia Beach celebration. Lutz is campaigning to unseat Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., and has been making the rounds across the country to raise funds. The coalition is reportedly seeking to sponsor independent campaigns on behalf of selected candidates next year, but has yet to make a commitment to Lutz. Lutz, who ran a surprisingly tight race against Packwood in 1986, is striving to raise \$1 million in his latest challenge against the longtime incumbent.

OCA tidbits

Queer Nation/Eugene is collecting information about the OCA and is encouraging people throughout the state to send mailings, news clippings, photographs, sightings, phone numbers, and personal experiences. Write to: OCA Information, PO Box 984, Eugene, Ore. 97401.