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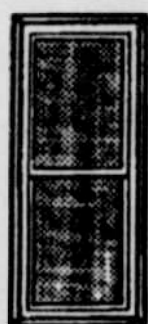
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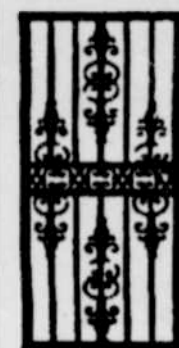
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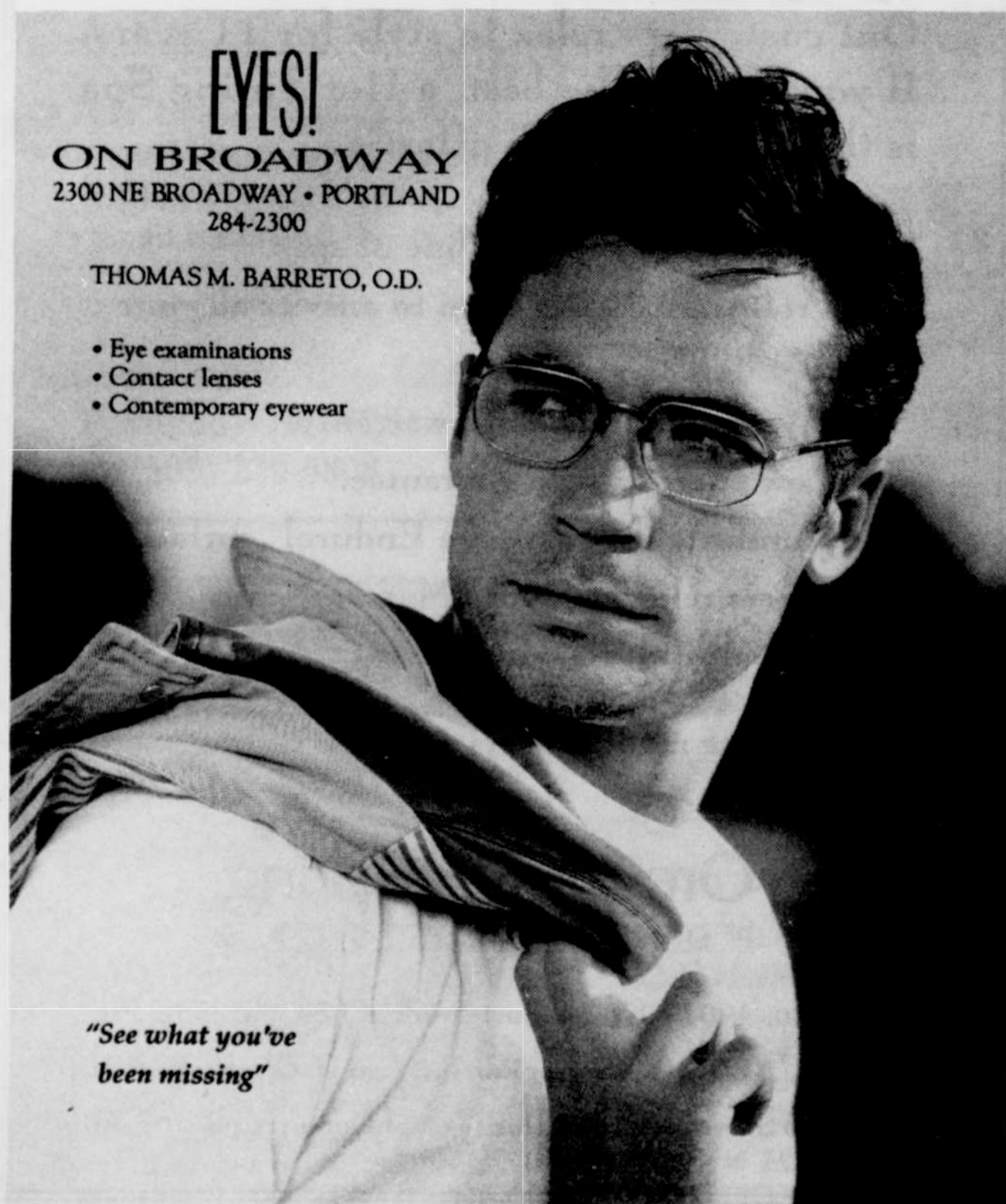
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Harassment suit filed against Ron Tonkin

A gay African American man has filed suit in Multnomah County against Ron Tonkin Toyota and Ron Tonkin Honda for more than \$1.5 million. The suit charges discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation and race.

Robert Glasco worked for Ron Tonkin as a car salesman from May 1991 to Oct. 1993. During that time, Glasco claims, he encountered repeated harassment and humiliation from his co-workers and supervisors. The harassment allegedly continued after he reported the incidents to management.

The suit, filed in early March, says that co-workers called Glasco "Mrs. Glasco" and "bitch" while mimicking stereotyped behavior of gay men. Glasco said a fellow employee mimicked a 19th-century slave owner while calling Glasco "boy" and "spear-chucker."

Glasco quit his job because of the emotional distress these incidents inflicted on him. The suit further charges that Tonkin management made no reasonable effort to end the harassment or to protect Glasco.

Ron Tonkin management declined to comment on the case.

The suit asks for \$50,000 in economic damages, \$500,000 for humiliation and stress, and \$1,000,000 for punitive damages.

CAP hires executive director

Susan I. Stoltenberg has been named the new executive director of Cascade AIDS Project, Oregon's largest HIV and AIDS support organization, which has been undergoing financial problems for the last four months.

"The board and staff have already made the appropriate changes necessary to rectify past problems," Stoltenberg said. "Now, the community, upon whose financial and spiritual support this organization relies, needs to be reminded that the services we provide have never missed a beat."

Stoltenberg is the former executive director of Open Adoption and Family Services, Inc., where she gained a background in public relations, fund-raising and event coordination.

Stoltenberg replaces former director Mica Smith, who left because of health reasons earlier this year. The post was filled by acting directors before Stoltenberg was hired.

In late January, a \$140,000 shortfall in the agency's \$1.5 million budget was discovered, due partially to unpaid phone, health insurance and rent bills.

CAP has been looking into the causes of the shortfall, and recently asked the Charitable Activities section of the Oregon Attorney General's Office for assistance, according to board chair Theresa Wright.

In March, a memo from an attorney involved in the financial investigation indicated preliminary findings as to the causes of the financial setback. Allowing the former financial manager to "forge checks" and employees to take out personal loans were pinpointed as possible reasons, along with overpayments and double payments to contractors.

Wright told *The Oregonian* that the memo was one "small piece in a very grand scheme. These are allegations. Many of them have not been verified."

Recently, an art auction fund-raiser brought in more than \$13,000 for CAP. Tigard High School held a dance recital benefit for the organization, which raised more than \$2,000. A private individual has donated \$15,000 to the Brinker Fund and the Speakers Bureau. "These successes and others like them show the continuing support... for CAP," Wright said.

Wright praised Stoltenberg's qualifications, saying, "There is not an area in non-profit agency management in which Stoltenberg has not been directly involved. It is that experience which CAP is looking forward to gaining from."

RTP sets date for Hart dinner

"Celebrate Courage, Imagine Justice" is the theme of the 13th annual Lucille Hart Dinner, set for Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

The dinner is a fund-raiser for the Right to Privacy Political Action Committee, which raises money and contributes to political candidates and campaigns that support civil rights for sexual minorities. The keynote speakers and entertainers for this year's dinner have not yet been announced.

Tickets for the event are now on sale for \$125. For more information, call RTP at (503) 228-5825.

PCUN dedicates permanent headquarters

Richard Chavez, Caesar Chavez's brother, and folk singer Pete Seeger helped celebrate the dedication of the official headquarters of Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, an Oregon farm workers union, in Woodburn on April 28.

The building, at 300 Young St., was a resting spot for participants in the Walk Against Hate from Eugene to Portland in June 1992. PCUN members marched with the walkers through Woodburn.

The building was named for two Jewish civil rights and union activists, Edward and Sonia Risberg, whose life savings were donated for the final purchase of the hall. They were the grandparents of PCUN activist Larry Kleinman.

The membership of the 9-year-old union has grown to 3,500. Its goal is to improve the living and working conditions of farm workers. It is currently locked in a struggle with Kraemer Farms, in Mt. Angel, which grows products for the Steinfeld's and Flav-R-Pac labels.

Others on hand to celebrate the building's dedication were folk singer Judy Gorman and attorney and community activist Enrique Ramirez. President Bill Clinton, Gov. Barbara Roberts and U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Furse (D-Ore.) sent letters of support.

PCUN helped to raise Oregon's minimum wage, led the first organized strike of farm laborers in Oregon's history, and won litigation to invalidate an Oregon law that prohibited picketing at agricultural worksites during harvests. PCUN is supported by diverse labor, religious, community and sexual minority groups in the Northwest. For more information, call (503) 982-0243.

Bonneville sets non- discrimination policy

The Bonneville Power Administration has affirmed its non-discrimination policy regarding sexual minorities in a recent employee memorandum. Sexual orientation is now recognized as a potential basis for harassment.

"The Bonneville Power Administration will neither practice, condone nor tolerate job-related discrimination based on any non-merit factor," the memo reads. The memo goes on to list "non-merit factors" that include sexual orientation, race, age, sex and disability.

The memo stated that the goal of the policy is to ensure that employees can be "creative and productive," and that "employment decisions are not compromised by personal biases that hinder sound judgment and adversely affect our work environment."

Compiled by Pamela Lyons