

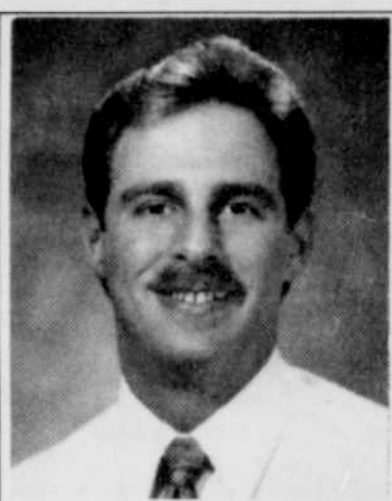
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## local news

### The tables are set

*The Lucille Hart Dinner is scheduled for Sept. 17,  
and a ghostwriter is the keynote speaker*

by Martha L. Allen

**H**igh-spirited comedy and political insights on how to fight the radical right are on the menu for the 13th annual Lucille Hart Dinner set for Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Oregon Convention Center. Lesbian comic Suzanne Westenhofer will perform, and Mel White, gay Christian minister and former ghostwriter for the radical right, will be the keynote speaker for the event.

The dinner is the annual fund-raiser for the Right to Privacy Political Action Committee. Right to Privacy raises money and contributes to political candidates and campaigns that support the goal of full civil and human rights for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. The event will also include awards for groups and individuals who support Right to Privacy's goals.

"We're really excited to have one of the country's funniest and hottest gay performers host our yearly fund-raiser," said Greg Jackson, executive director of Right to Privacy.

Westenhofer was recently seen in her own HBO comedy special and has made other television appearances. Over the past three years she has played in comedy clubs across the country, to good reviews.

As a ghostwriter and speech writer for Jerry Falwell, Billy Graham and Pat Robertson, Mel White was an evangelical Christian success story until he came out of the closet. In 1991, he publicly denounced the radical right's escalating gay-bashing, and took his former clients to task



Suzanne Westenhofer

for their dangerously inflammatory statements about sexual minorities. He is now the dean of the Cathedral of Hope, the nation's largest gay and lesbian congregation.

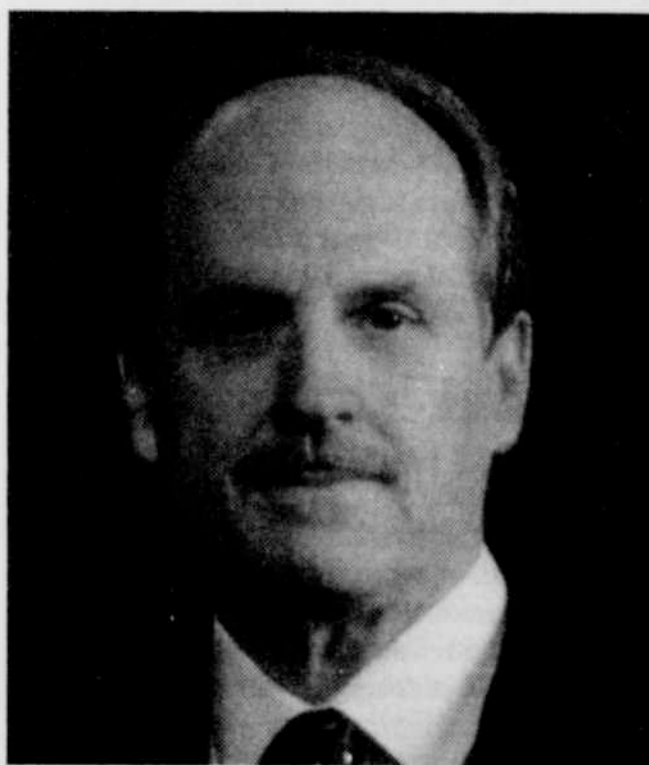
White has been touring the country this year, sharing his insights into how to fight the right and promoting his autobiography, *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America*. He denounces anti-queer denominations that have fostered psychological violence and physical suffering in the United States.

Tickets for the Lucille Hart Dinner are \$125. To order tickets, or for more information, contact Right to Privacy at 228-5825.

The Lucille Hart Award this year will go to Cheryl Perrin, senior vice-president of public relations at Fred Meyer. The award is given to a member of the community, gay or straight, who has contributed to the cause of securing full civil rights for gay men, lesbians and bisexuals in the state of Oregon.

Marcy Westerling, founder of the Rural Organizing Project, will get Right to Privacy's Sanford Director Award. The award is named for a former gay community leader, and it honors a gay person who has contributed to the cause.

The Right to Privacy Special Contribution Award is a new award which will be given to an agency or organization that works on behalf of equity for sexual minorities. The award, which will be given for the first time this year, will be given to the American Civil Liberties Union for their contribution to the cause of civil rights for the sexual minority community.



Mel White

### OCA goes into phone business

The Oregon Citizens Alliance has linked up with a long-distance service that will give the organization a percentage of its revenue. The OCA will get a 2 percent cut of all long-distance calls made by its members under the plan. The long-distance service also will funnel business to Tracer Systems, Inc., a Woodburn company owned by Byron T. Mabon, father of OCA chief Lon Mabon.

The service will be provided by WilTel, Inc., a national long-distance carrier. Lon Mabon said that the OCA wanted to offer its members a long-distance alternative to AT&T Corp., which he says is opposed to the OCA's position on issues such as abortion and sexual minority rights.

### Our House plans benefit dinners

Our House, a residential facility for people living with HIV and AIDS, is planning a series of benefit dinners. Beginning Sept. 8, each of 22 households will offer a different theme dinner with entertainment. One dinner party offers a chance for outrageous conversation and delicious food with Darcelle, one will include a cruise around Lake Oswego, while another yields a chance for political scoops with state Rep. George Eighmey. Each dinner will cost \$50 per person, and all proceeds go to Our House. Reservations, and a listing of host homes, dates and themes, are available by calling Diane Tutch at 234-0175.

Compiled by Martha L. Allen