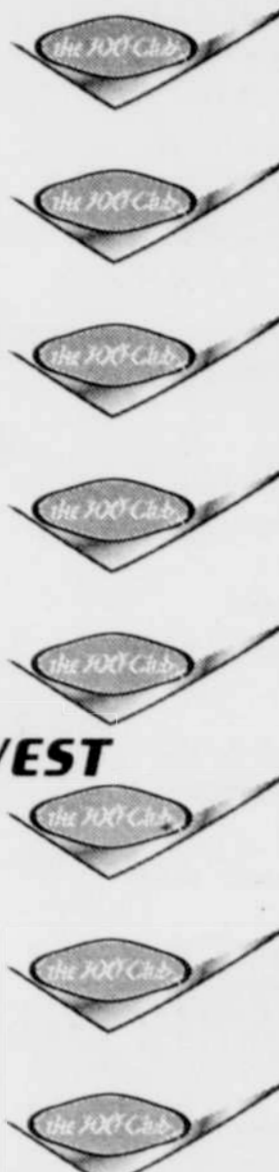




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NORTHWEST news

KA-CHING!

Continued from the cover

For those fairly new to Oregon or too young to remember, 1991 and 1992 were emotionally and politically charged years when it came to lesbian and gay rights.

There had yet to be any serious discussion of same-sex marriage; the explosion of companies and governments offering domestic partner benefits hadn't yet occurred; Melissa Etheridge and Ellen DeGeneres were still tucked away in their closets.

The anti-gay OCA, headed by Lon Mabon, snagged a scorching issue when it latched onto gay rights and began promoting Measure 9—a statewide initiative that sparked worldwide media attention, prompted a rally of 10,000 opponents in Pioneer Courthouse Square, spawned a billion "No on 9" buttons and

"He was very angry and grabbed my arm and told me to leave.... He pushed me several times, until he had pushed me out of the room where the video was playing. Once we were in the next room, he grabbed me from the back, picked me up off the ground and slammed me into the side of a partition. He then threw me to the floor and wrenched my right arm over my head," Stauffer recounted in the pages of *Just Out*. "He then dragged me in that position...out the door and into the street. He then left me and returned inside. He and Bill Casey quickly shut and locked the door. I left with a ripped skirt and an injured shoulder. I called the police."

Not only that, she sued. A few weeks after the incident, Stauffer filed a civil suit in Multnomah County Circuit Court against Lively and the Oregon Citizens Alliance. (A Multnomah County deputy district attorney had declined to press criminal charges in the incident.)

Stauffer sought damages of at least \$350,000 from Lively and

manhandled her, Stauffer remembers the incident clearly, as well as the subsequent trial.

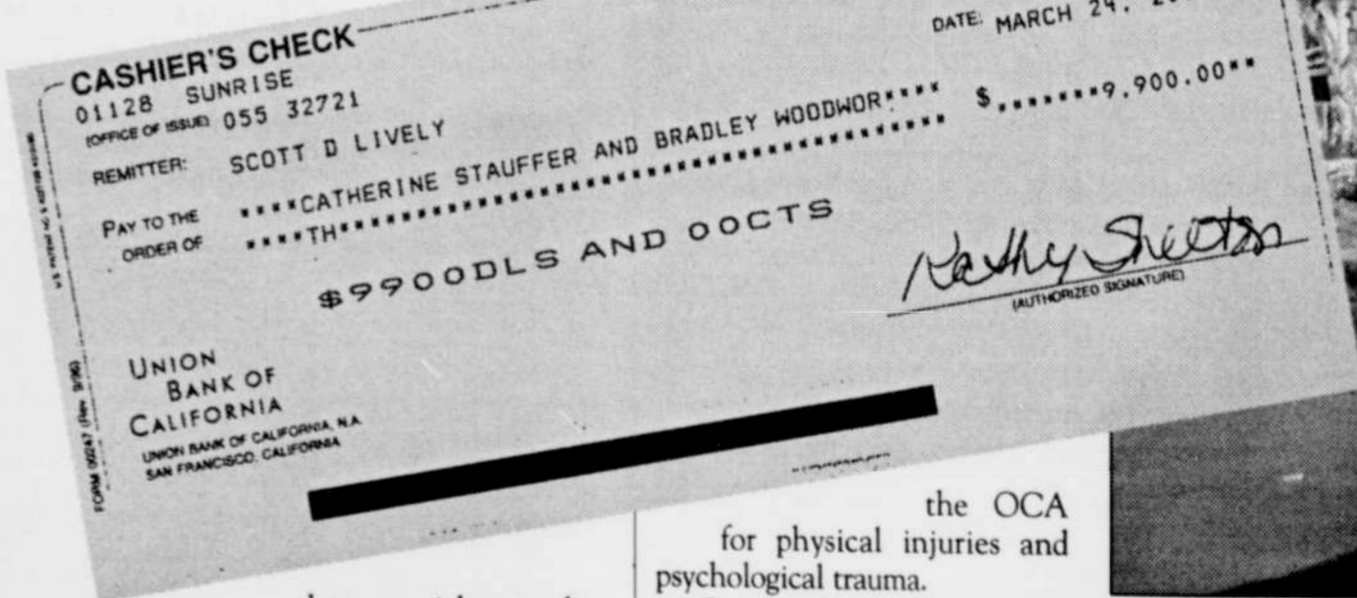
"The OCA's attorney made me stand up in the courtroom and have everyone assess whether I looked gay," she recalls. "It was humiliating. I was so upset."

Over the years, Stauffer and her attorney, Bradley Woodworth, have monitored the OCA and Lively, both of whom, says Woodworth, maintained they didn't have the money to pay the judgment.

Nearly five years ago, Lively wrote a book titled *The Pink Swastika*, which argued that "homosexuality was a central element of the fascist system." An August 1995 flier touting the book informed folks they could "make a tax-deductible donation to support the Lively family while Scott goes through law school. Scott

"He was very angry and grabbed my arm and told me to leave.... He pushed me several times, until he had pushed me out of the room where the video was playing. Once we were in the next room, he grabbed me from the back, picked me up off the ground and slammed me into the side of a partition. He then threw me to the floor and wrenched my right arm over my head."

—Catherine Stauffer



Catherine Stauffer on a recent, more peaceful afternoon

bumper stickers, rocketed reports of hate crimes, and flushed oodles of queers out of the closet and into activism.

Even by objective standards, it was pretty intense.

Catherine Stauffer was 22 in October 1991. She was also a free-lance photographer who sometimes handled assignments for *Just Out*.

She first became interested in photographing the OCA while she was shooting a "pro-war" rally in downtown Portland.

At the demonstration, Stauffer encountered one of the OCA's adherents; the two, says Stauffer, spoke of the conflict in the Persian Gulf, and then the woman spoke of a war going on right here in Oregon—one that pitted nice, normal folks against "militant homosexuals." She handed Stauffer an OCA flier.

Stauffer described her relationship with the OCA in *Just Out*'s November 1991 issue: "By telephone, by mail and by making an occasional appearance at its events, I tried to learn as much about its members as I could. My intent was to produce a series of photographs to be published."

Stauffer even received one of the special invites to the *Gay Pride* premiere. She wandered into the Foursquare Church and ran into a roadblock known as Scott Lively.

the OCA for physical injuries and psychological trauma.

One year later, the case went to trial and a Portland jury ultimately ruled that Lively used unreasonable force in ejecting Stauffer.

The court held him and the OCA liable for damages totaling more than \$31,000. The Oregon Court of Appeals upheld the award in late December 1993.

Despite that, Stauffer hasn't seen a dime—until now, that is.

"Hi Inga, this Catherine Stauffer, the photographer who won the lawsuit against Scott Lively and the OCA. I'm calling to let you know that I just received my first payment from Scott Lively—for \$10,000—which he is supposedly paying because he just graduated from law school and can't practice with this judgment hanging over his head."

The message was left on my voice mail on March 28, 2000.

I haven't spoken with Stauffer in years. The OCA in its current form is a comparatively withered organization; Lively has gone to the Golden State with golden plans of becoming an attorney, a Christian "legal missionary." Gay rights issues—at least in Oregon—don't seem to trigger the same hysterical response of days past.

Stauffer is now 31. She was 23 when she won the civil award.

While it's been nearly a decade since Lively

has been accepted at Simon Greenleaf College of Law in California to begin classes this fall. The Lively home church, Sheridan Assembly of God, has established a special fund for our support while we go through this program. We will send a copy of *The Pink Swastika* to our supporters for a suggested \$25."

Woodworth calculated when he thought Lively was set to graduate from law school, then posted a letter to the California Bar Association informing it of Lively's outstanding judgment in Oregon.

Soon after, Stauffer received her first large installment of the \$21,000 owed to her by Lively—a big, fat \$9,900 check. (Lively sent \$100 in December.)

"It's certainly gratifying," says Woodworth, "It shows that persistence pays."

According to Stauffer, Lively has agreed to pay off the judgment within two years, in two more installments.

"I always knew this day would come," she says. "I always knew that they knew I was out here."

■ For questions or comments about *Just Out*'s Northwest, national or world news coverage, please send an e-mail to News Editor INGA SORESENSEN at inga@justout.com.