

"I got saved in 1970 and I was a hippie. I took drugs, was into everything I could be into," said Lon Mabon, who paused and scanned the room, gazing at the dozen people propped before his eyes.

Mabon wore his signature mustard blazer; his blond hair appeared longer than usual; his face was a little more worn; his eyes looked kind of sad.

"I know what sin is." Pause. "I also know what accepting the Lord Jesus Christ is."

Mabon has been around Oregon for the better part of a decade, espousing an anti-abortion and anti-gay-rights agenda typically manifested via initiatives sponsored by his tenacious Oregon Citizens Alliance.

During an April 27 lunchtime chitchat at the Bonneville Power Administration's headquarters in Portland, Mabon sounded the call once again—but not before wife Bonnie let loose with a little Christian ditty.

"We're pilgrims on a journey..." Bonnie sang out. When she mentioned God, her finger sprouted to the heavens.

"She rarely doesn't hit the right note," Lon assessed.

For the second consecutive year, Mabon was invited to speak at the BPA, a government enti-



Karen DeLano (left) and Tina Conover of BPA's queer group

PHOTO BY INGA SORESENSEN

ty, by its Christian-focused employee group.

Last year, Mabon's visit caused quite a stir, garnering media attention and many more attendees. This go-round was comparatively quiet. Just a few employees—some gay, some not—some snacking, some not—plopped down for his hour-long sermon on the woeful state of the family.

The issue of homosexuality—which wasn't mentioned during his BPA presentation in 1999—emerged from Mabon's mouth repeatedly during his talk in 2000.

"Homosexuality—does it attack the family?" he quizzed. "Of course it does." (Exodus International got a good word from Mabon.)

God, he said, did not make a man to be a woman or a woman to be a man. God made a man to be a man, a woman to be a woman, and a man and a woman to be together.

GO TELL IT AT THE BPA

God-fearing gaybuster Lon Mabon makes his second visit to the Bonneville Power Administration by Inga Sorensen

Got that?

The OCA is currently collecting signatures to qualify its latest anti-gay initiative, the Student Protection Act, for the November 2000 ballot. The measure seeks to stamp out any form of instruction, organization or positive discussion relating to sexual orientation in Oregon's public schools.

Mabon plugged the initiative and even brought petitions to the BPA, making it convenient for visitors to his presentation to bolster his signature-gathering effort.

Well, this didn't sit well with Karen DeLano, president of the BPA's gay and lesbian resource group, who asked that the on-the-premises signature collecting be immediately halted, which it was via the order of a BPA official who was on hand.

"I'm sorry. I didn't realize," said Bonnie.

Tina Conover, who has worked for BPA for a dozen years and

is part of the queer employee group, was peeved by Mabon's presence.

"I'm angry!" she says.

She was last year, too.

"It really gets to me!"

As with last year, DeLano didn't like the fact that Mabon was in her work environment doing his thing. Yet, even with Mabon explicitly disingenuous, DeLano says the man's got a right to free speech. (As do Darcelle XV, human rights activist Kathleen Saadat, and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays members—all of whom were previously brought to BPA by the gay employee group.)

And, DeLano says, of the 12 people who came to watch Mabon, half were queer; the thought prompts a smile from her.

■ Any queer goings-on in your neighborhood? Contact MARTY DAVIS at marty@justout.com or P.O. Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400. Send faxes to (503) 236-1257.

IT'S A DATE

After skipping a year, Lesbian Community Project is poised to hold its annual membership meeting by Inga Sorensen

There wasn't one in 1999, but there will be one in 2000—May 21, to be exact.

That's the day the Portland-based Lesbian Community Project will hold its annual membership meeting. And what transpires from that gathering will likely determine the organization's future.

"We're looking for people to step forward and take leadership positions," explains LCP board chair Amazon Knightly, one of LCP's three board members. "We have money in the bank. We have an office, but we don't have any board members."

LCP has been without a full-time staff organizer since Deke Law departed last fall. Long-time community activist Kristan Aspen just completed a stint as the interim staff organizer for the 13-year-old organization. She has been retained on a contract basis until fall, and two part-time organizers—Lori Patterson and Libby Harrison—were recently brought on to handle a variety of projects throughout the summer.

During the past few months, Aspen and the board have solicited from the community thoughts and feedback about LCP in what has been dubbed a "listening period."

Says Aspen: "This will be an important

meeting, because we will present some proposals for the membership to consider about the future of the organization. The proposals are not completed yet.

"We have a committee formed by women who attended chats and board members to synthesize and coalesce the input we have received into proposals we think the membership will support," she continues. "We also will be asking for new board members to run and be elected at this meeting. All of this is the result of the groundwork we have laid since January, during

our 'listening period.'"

Adds Knightly: "This is the time to step forward... We need board partners to help and guide us."

■ The LESBIAN COMMUNITY PROJECT's annual membership meeting is slated for 4 to 7 p.m. May 21 at the Bijou Cafe, 132 S.W. Third Ave. in Portland. Kathleen Saadat will facilitate. For more information, contact LCP at (503) 233-3913.

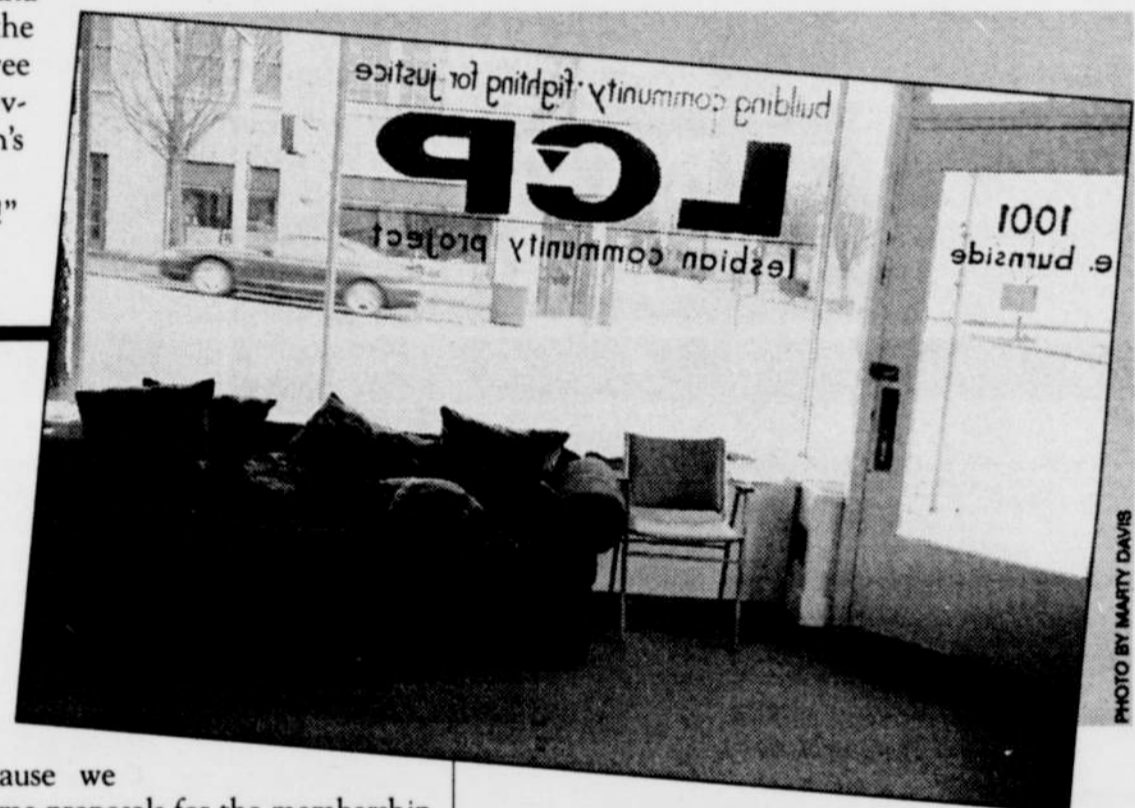


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