

held by the educational foundation—and died soon after.

In July, the money was moved into the educational foundation's main bank account for a week, then transferred into a new trust account. The Mabons say Van Kommer intended the funds to be set up in a trust and didn't intend for them to go to the educational foundation.

Lon Mabon claims no board discussions or minutes reflect a discussion about the plans for her money. He said he and his wife made the decisions.

Stauffer's attorneys said that the funds should have been used to satisfy the outstanding judgment and that the Mabons have been actively attempting to avoid paying her. The couple testified that the OCA's board of directors never has discussed the issue.

But in earlier testimony, Lon Mabon said

that the board called an executive session to discuss Van Kommer's donation. He said the group wanted to meet in executive session because of a general concern about lawsuits being inflicted on the group.

Executive sessions are not required by law to be documented by minutes. Mabon said the group feared any minutes about the discussion could become public in a lawsuit.

The OCA claims Stauffer's attempt to collect the outstanding judgment is politically motivated. She admits she would like to see funds that are earmarked to support Measure 9 come to her instead.

However, Stauffer says she isn't interested in keeping the Mabons' money. She revealed she's looking forward to writing a check to their opposition. **J**

## PITCH OF SALTZMAN

**Open forum draws only a handful to hear city commissioner**

by Jonathan Kipp

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman greeted about a dozen people who showed up to a meeting his office organized Sept. 26 at Metropolitan Community Church. The gathering was part of his ongoing effort to keep in touch with the issues and concerns of Portland's neighborhoods and minority groups.

Saltzman, in office for almost two years, said the meeting was his first attempt to reach out to sexual minorities using an open forum. The gathering, rescheduled after a personal emergency kept him from attending in July, was coordinated by his aide and liaison to the sexual minorities community, Frank Dixon.

Saltzman opened the discussion by stating his opposition to the Oregon Citizens Alliance's Measure 9 and reviewing some of his pertinent accomplishments. He spoke of Multnomah County's new domestic partnership registry, calling it "a very big step forward." He said he'd like to see marriage as an option for sexual minorities in committed relationships but pointed out the issue is not something the city or county has jurisdiction over.

"We need a legal way to recognize committed relationships," Saltzman said. "There is nothing more important in this day and age than people who love each other and are committed to each other."

The Boy Scouts of America controversy is not something the city of Portland plans on dealing with—at least not yet, Saltzman said. But he is clear where he stands on the issue.

Saltzman supports terminating United Way funds until a change is made to the ban on gay Scout leaders—a policy recently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. "I hope the United Way chapter does the right thing," he said.

Although the city will stay out of the controversy for now, Saltzman said it might be possible to consider banning the United Way from

soliciting donations at city of Portland departments and bureaus. It is something he says he will look into if the situation doesn't get resolved.

"Civil rights is not a menu approach," Saltzman said, explaining people can't pick and



City Commissioner Dan Saltzman connects with constituents Sept. 26 at Metropolitan Community Church of Portland

choose who gets these rights. "That's why these issues are important."

Saltzman then asked for community members to make comments and ask questions.

The strides made by the City Council are important, according to one man. "Progress is being made," he said. Portland has become more secure and safer during the past five years, he added.

Saltzman agreed. But he said positive change wouldn't have been possible without the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans community coming out. "That is very important," he said.

One woman, a city employee, told Saltzman about the mistreatment she has experienced from her supervisor and the horrors of coming out to her co-workers. He listened carefully to her painful story.

"I know it's dangerous," Saltzman said in response. "That is what makes it so courageous."

Although the meeting was small, those attending responded positively to Saltzman's offer to meet again in six months.

"Was this a good idea?" he asked. "Yes," many responded. **J**

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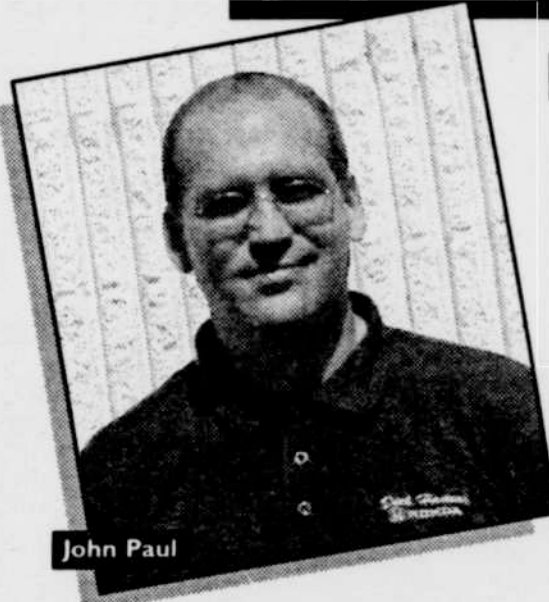
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