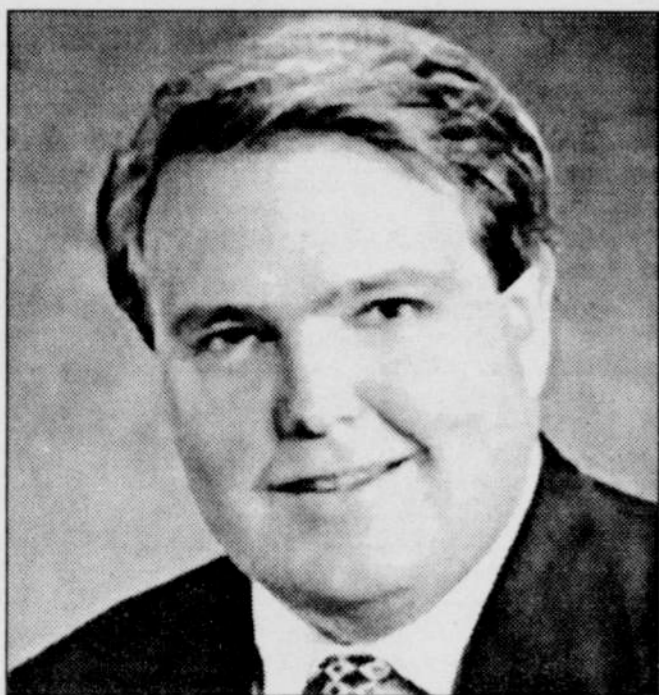


NORTHWEST news

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SAFE SCHOOLS BILL STALLED IN COMMITTEE

Supporters of the Safe Schools Bill still are waiting for the legislation to get a hearing by the House Judiciary Committee. Basic Rights Oregon spokesperson CM Hall says her organization is lobbying lawmakers to take action.



Rep. Max Williams

House Bill 3247 seeks to protect sexual minority students and those who are perceived to be gay. A recent survey indicated one in 15 Oregon high schoolers had been harassed during the past 30 days because someone thought he or she was gay. The students, the survey suggests, are three times more likely to attempt suicide than their peers.

Hall suggests supporters who want to help should call the committee's chairman, Rep. Max Williams, R-Tigard, and "kindly request a hearing."

FORUM FOCUSES ON SENIOR CONCERNS

The Lesbian Community Project will launch "Options for Elders" during a forum from 6 to 8 p.m. June 19 in the board room on the third floor of Portland's downtown YWCA, 1111 S.W. 10th Ave. The panel will explore issues of concern to queer seniors as well as envision and work toward creating expanded options in building community across the generations.

Helping arrange the event is a group of 13 women known as Old Lesbians Organizing for Change. They meet on the second Wednesday of each month in the homes of members.

The forum is part of the Conversations Project, which will start holding discussion groups led by professional facilitators in the fall. Participants will include seniors 60 and older from the queer community and their younger counterparts.

A \$2,000 Equity Foundation grant made the effort possible. Kristan Aspen, LCP program director, initiated previous Conversations Projects under the sponsorship of Pride Northwest.

For more information about the forum call Mary Beth at 503-286-3575. For more information about the Conversations Project call LCP's new direct line, 503-294-7435.

OCA SCRAMBLING TO RAISE FUNDS

The Oregon Citizens Alliance recently sent an e-mail to right-wing supporters urging them to call legislators and to con-

tribute their tax credits. "We need you to literally rush us your political donation at this time," the message says.

Executive director Lon Mabon is doing his part to get Senate Bill 969 passed. The legislation, he writes, would require anyone submitting a voter pamphlet statement in an election to sign an affidavit swearing that a "yes" or "no" argument is just that.

The bill is stuck in the Senate Rules Committee, chaired by Sen. Steve Harper, R-Klamath Falls. Mabon says the legislation is critical to defeating the homosexual agenda in November 2002.

According to the message, the bill came about after a "pro-homosexual activist, in an attempt to deceive the public, wrote and submitted to the secretary of state 'supposed' Yes on 9 voter pamphlet statements, which were, in truth, No on 9 arguments." The satirical prank was the work of M. Dennis Moore's Special Righteousness Committee.

The OCA recruited Sen. Charles Starr, R-Hillsboro, to forward a bill curtailing such submissions. Mabon wants his followers to call leaders of the House and Senate and ask them to put the legislation on "the fast track."

SMITH NOTES AIDS ANNIVERSARY

U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., issued a statement on the Senate floor to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the AIDS epidemic June 5. The date is noteworthy because of the publication of a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1981.



U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith

"Though the 553-word article only outlined a rare type of pneumonia, it also noted that the same strain had struck five gay men in Los Angeles," Smith said. He added that one of them was an Oregonian named "Chuck."

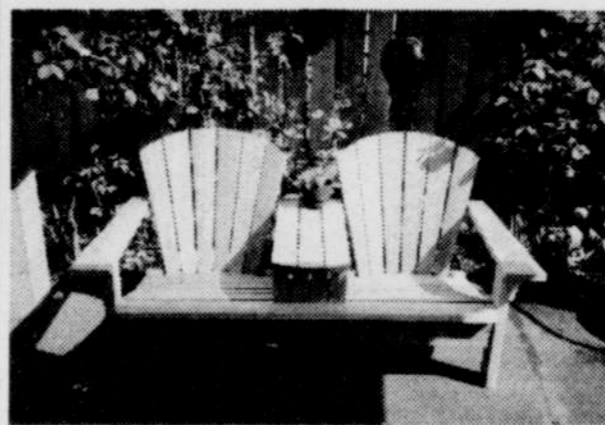
"Today's *Washington Post* noted only a sliver of his life—that he was from Oregon and that he had a penchant for wearing cowboy boots," Smith said. "Chuck has been dead for 19 years."

PROTESTER RESUMES MEDICAL TREATMENT

The North Bend man who stopped his anti-retroviral treatment in protest of

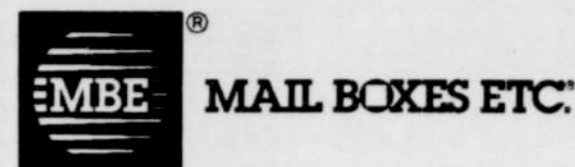
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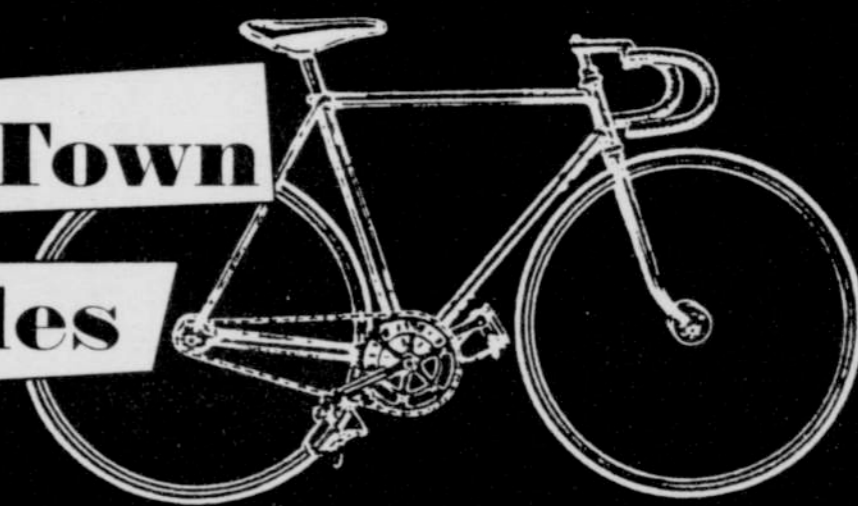
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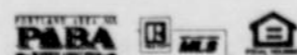


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