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WASHINGTON POLITICIANS SCOLD EGYPT PRESIDENT

U.S. Reps. Brian Baird and Jim McDermott, both D-Wash., were among the 35 members of Congress who signed Aug. 3 a letter to Egypt President Hosni Mubarak expressing "strong disapproval" of the arrests of 52 gay men. The correspondence was drafted by U.S. Reps. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Tom Lantos, D-Calif.

The men have been in detention since May 11. They are being charged with "obscene behavior" and "contempt of religion."

Reports indicate they have been subjected to beatings and to forensic examinations in order to ascertain whether they had engaged in anal intercourse. Meanwhile, the tightly state-controlled media have engaged in a campaign of vilification against the imprisoned men, referring to them as "Satanists" and pervers.

"The Egyptian government hasn't shifted its stance, and human rights defenders in Egypt are in danger," said Scott Long, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission program director. "International attention is now more critical than ever

since, under Egypt's emergency laws, the sentences of this court cannot be appealed."

For more information visit the Internet site www.iglhr.org.

MABONS FAIL TO APPEAR

Photojournalist Catherine Stauffer had Lon and Bonnie Mabon hauled back into court Sept. 6 for ignoring a court order to turn over discovery materials. The Oregon Citizens Alliance chairman and his wife owe her more than \$31,000 for a 1991 assault, and a trial date has been set for Oct. 17.

But the couple, who are representing themselves, were a no-show. When an official called to ask why they were absent, Mabon said he questioned the jurisdiction of the court and the validity of the judge's oath.

Judge Ronald E. Cinniger struck their pleadings, which will "preclude them from defending against the allegations that Catherine Stauffer makes against them in the complaint, effectively finding them to have fraudulently transferred assets to avoid paying her 9-year-old judgment," attorney Thane Tienson said. Another hearing will be scheduled soon.

TRANS FOUNDATION SEEKS BOARD MEMBERS

The Tara Foundation, a nonprofit public charity dedicated to helping trans individuals through financial assistance, has formed in Portland. "We know how expensive transitioning can be, and some people don't have the resources due to disability, low income, etc. to pay their transition expenses," director Tara Taylor says.

The foundation is looking for people

who'd like to serve on the board of directors. Duties would include writing bylaws, electing officers, soliciting donations and choosing candidates for funding.

Trans or foundation experience is a plus but not necessary. Minorities are welcome.

For more information call 503-761-1955, send e-mail to taragem@quest.net or visit the Internet site tarafoundation.org.

TRANS PEOPLE, WOMEN CAN LEARN SELF-DEFENSE

Open Hand, a Portland nonprofit organization, will hold a short self-defense class for trans people from 1 to 5 p.m. Sept. 8 at 2926 N.E. Alberta St. The fee is on a sliding scale.

The class is open to trans people of all genders, intersex people, gender-variant people and people targeted for transphobia whether or not they are trans. The instructor is non-trans but has experienced transphobia.

WomenStrength, a Portland Police Bureau program, introduces teen and adult women to a variety of strategies to help defend against assault. Classes are held every month at different locations around the city.

To register for Open Hand call 503-493-1000. To register for WomenStrength call 503-823-0296.

CITY COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS WEST END

The Portland City Council will discuss the West End planning recommendation

during its meeting 2 p.m. Sept. 26 at 1221 S.W. Fourth Ave. The neighborhood includes the Burnside Triangle, which is home to several businesses targeting the gay and lesbian community.

The ongoing debate centers on changing the zoning designation of several West End blocks from residential to commercial. Housing advocates say the switch will drive rents up and force low-income tenants to move.

Another concern is the survival of present businesses in the Burnside Triangle. The Panorama nightclub closed its doors July 15, and Ozone Records recently announced it will begin liquidating merchandise in January 2002.

To testify call 503-823-4082, fax 503-823-4571 or send e-mail to kmoore-love@ci.portland.or.us.

VANGUARD YOUTH SERVICES RECEIVES POWELL'S GRANT

Vanguard Youth Services recently received a \$2,500 grant from Powell's Books to establish a library for the Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center.

"These books will be a vital resource to the youth that we serve," program manager Kathy Belge said. "It is so important for gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans youth to have access to accurate information about their lives. It's great that Powell's has recognized this need and has made this resource available."

SMYRC kids will research titles and take several trips to the store to pick out books. Powell's also has donated a case to house the books. **J**

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA and TIMOTHY KRAUSE

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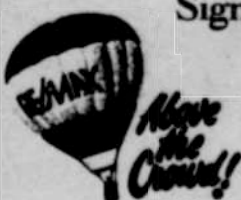
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