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NORTHWEST news



According to Pink Pistols, "The more people know that members of our community may be armed, the less likely they will be to single us out for attack"

ARMED AND FABULOUS

Do you remember that *Saturday Night Live* sketch about the Gay Communist Gun Club? Well, it turns out that satire wasn't so far off from reality.

Pink Pistols is a national nonprofit "dedicated to the legal, safe and responsible use of firearms for self-defense of the sexual minorities community." Of course, the Cold War is over, so the organization has no stance on communism, but who knew SNL could be so prescient?

Now, a bunch of National Rifle Association certified instructors want to gauge interest in launching a Portland chapter. More than 20 already have formed across the United States.

"One of the things people can do about hate crimes is defend themselves," instructor Lee Anderson says. "Anybody, especially people who are traditionally picked on, should have self-defense guns."

Anderson considers himself a civil rights advocate as well as a gun rights advocate. He thinks the Bill of Rights must be defended in its entirety.

"It can get to be a very politically delicate issue," he says. "We have had some very strange reactions from people. There's a lot of political bullshit out there, to tell you the truth. I'm up to my knees in it."

Anderson thinks gun control legislation has no effect on the crime rate. "The only people who obey these strict gun laws are the law-abiding people," he says.

Although Anderson is straight, he is working hard to promote Pink Pistols. He says the organization offers camaraderie while teaching recreational shooting, gun safety and firearms training, which ranges from marksmanship to advanced tactical issues.

To get things started he is inviting gay, lesbian, bi and trans community members to a free basic pistol class—a \$35 to \$50 value—from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 6 at Johnson Creek Gun Club, 7200 S.E. Lamphier St. A meeting will be held afterward, during which organizers hope to found a Portland Pink Pistols chapter.

The gun club also will play host to a gay-friendly home firearm safety course, a basic class with no shooting involved. It will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 20.

For more information call 503-231-1279 or e-mail landers@hevanet.com.

MABON DISROBES JUDGES

Lon Mabon has been fighting gay rights for more than a decade, but now he's taking on an even larger battle: the entire statewide judicial system. He has lost his lawsuit against photojournalist Catherine Stauffer, owes her more than \$31,000, is broke and lacks legal representation.

Desperate times call for desperate measures, so Mabon is employing a tactic used by people in the Constitutionalist and Patriot movements. He says all Oregon judges are impostors because the oath of office they sign is not identical to the one in the state constitution.

"The key element of it was the fact that they had removed—many of them, maybe over 75 percent of the judges we estimate in the state—had signed this false oath where they've taken out the word 'and impartially,'" Mabon told Oregon Public Broadcasting. The constitution "says that they are to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of their office."

Because of this incorrect oath, Mabon insists the offices are essentially vacant. Therefore, those who act as judges are impostors.

"And basically that's a Class C felony," Mabon says. "All justices on the Supreme Court right now have signed a false oath. We don't have a Supreme Court of Oregon."

Mabon has rejected the Multnomah County justice system and wants the federal courts to take over the Stauffer case, which stems from a 1991 assault by his right-hand man, Scott Lively. Stauffer's attorney Thane Tienson has read the unusual court documents filed by the Oregon Citizens Alliance.

"It evokes images of...the extreme factions that simply don't recognize the lawful authority of the governments that...we've entrusted [with] the responsibility of governing ourselves in this country," he says. "They've basically chosen to take themselves outside the law, and the language here to me suggests that perhaps they see themselves as martyrs...that they view themselves as victims of an oppressive court system."

Chief Justice Wallace Carson says his office's senior staff attorney is looking into the matter. He can't comment on the claim because the case might end up before the Oregon Supreme Court.

MABON ACCUSES SMITH OF BACKFLIP

Lon Mabon thinks U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., switched sides on gay rights for purely political gain.