

Sheriff's deputies arrested the chairman of the Oregon Citizens Alliance after a dramatic courtroom appearance Feb. 20.

Lon Mabon will sit behind bars for six months or until he agrees to participate in hearings seeking to collect more than \$40,000 owed to photojournalist Catherine Stauffer. The settlement stems from a 1991 assault on the lesbian during an OCA event.

Mabon refused repeated requests to participate in the hearing, instead demanding a signed contract guaranteeing a fair trial. Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Ronald Cinniger then proceeded without the anti-gay crusader, whose constant outbursts fell on deaf ears.

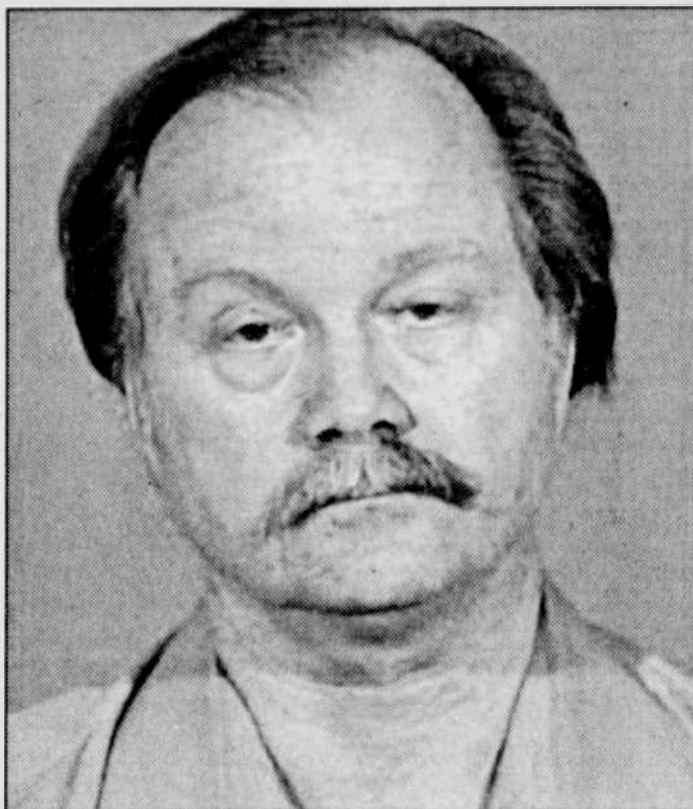
As Mabon was handcuffed, his supporters stormed out of the courtroom, bemoaning the perceived miscarriage of justice. "This is treason!" one man shouted.

Mabon was unrepentant as he was escorted away: "I fought for this country, and I fought for the constitution. I can handle jail."

Mabon's wife, Bonnie, also was found in contempt of court but was given an extra 10 days of freedom to take care of financial matters. Cinniger is fining the OCA \$1,000 a day in addition to the jail time.

But during a hearing Feb. 28, Bonnie Mabon finally agreed to comply with the court in order to avoid the slammer. A judgment debtor hearing was scheduled for March 5.

In between court dates, Bonnie Mabon made the most of her time at OCA headquarters in Brooks. She e-mailed an "Affidavit of Fact and Truth" to supporters Feb. 22 and had a flier placed in the *Portland Tribune* that same day declaring her husband a "political prisoner."



Lon Mabon's bloodshot mug shot

The affidavit explains the Mabons' ongoing dispute with the oath taken by most Oregon judges. Because the words "and impartially" are missing, the couple say courtrooms statewide are filled with impostors.

But the document goes a step further than past arguments, attempting to retry the original case. "Samuel J. Imperati ordered the evidence of Catherine Stauffer's criminal trespass suppressed, so that Scott Lively's lawful affirmative defense against the common law complaint of 'battery' never reached the jury," the affidavit says.

Bonnie Mabon also forwarded an e-mail to supporters Feb. 21 in which a person named Rick Jones ("one of the men whom the Lord has used to help us in our attempt to defend ourselves in the court system") levels charges of an anti-OCA conspiracy. He says the "totally bogus and contrived lawsuit" was designed to "chill" the couple's constitutionally protected rights.

"Two months before the alleged 'battery' of avowed lesbian Catherine Stauffer, in A.D. 1991, Lon received a phone call from an individual, who only identified himself as part of the

GO TO JAIL

**Go directly to jail.
Do not pass judgment,
do not collect
\$1,000 a day.**

by Jim Radosta

Portland homosexual community," Jones writes. "The individual told Lon, 'We are going to change our tactics with you; we are going to bleed you dry with lawsuits.'"

The *Tribune* advertisement urges supporters to express their outrage to Oregon's governor, state legislators and congressional delegation. U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith's Portland office received "just a handful of calls," press secretary Joe Sheffo said.

Unlike the Feb. 20 hearing, Bonnie Mabon had legal representation Feb. 28. Frank Patrick said he is serving as her attorney in a limited capacity.

"People are raising money to pay for the counsel, so I'm appreciative of that," Bonnie Mabon said. "There are people out there that realize that this is a lot bigger issue than just this judgment."

The money is being raised by the Committee for Constitutional Courts, which sent an inflammatory letter to supporters begging for contributions to "help us free Lon and strike a blow against the tide of evil that is sweeping this state." The correspondence, which *Just Out* has acquired, was written by Jeremy Bowen, president of OCA Underground, which rallies young people to join the cause.

"This could be a great victory for the sodomites," he wrote. "I can assure you they see it as another opportunity to mock God."

The letter referred to "militant homosexuals" as "the most powerful and dangerous group in the state." Apparently, they must be: Bowen claimed that gay men and lesbians have "accomplices in the court system" and that "the major media is operating as a wholly owned subsidiary of the rich sodomite lobby."

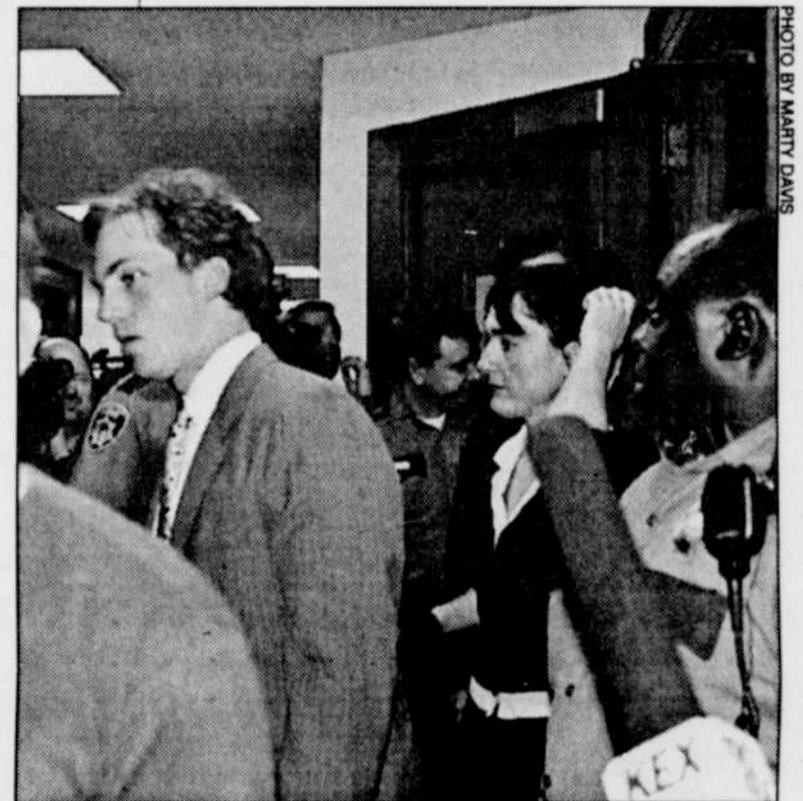
Bonnie Mabon said no such letter was sent. When asked about the accusation that the court is full of accomplices to militant homosexuals, she changed the subject.

"I think I saw the letter, but I don't remember reading that in the letter," she said. "However, you're getting away from the main issue here. The main issue is the oath."

Patrick also denied any knowledge of the letter. "Well, I'm not aware of that, but if somebody wants to send me money, then I'm more than willing to take it."

Mabon's arrest received widespread coverage in Portland publications, and the story later was picked up by the *Advocate*. But the mainstream media failed to address a continuing conundrum: How can the couple keep attempting to amend Oregon law when they knowingly violate Oregon law on a regular basis?

"We will do according to the law when we find a judge that is constitutional and does according to the law," Bonnie Mabon said. "If the legislators would do their job, the initiative process wouldn't be necessary."



Brent Foster and Catherine Stauffer exit the courtroom Feb. 20

She said her failure to pay the settlement had nothing to do with Stauffer's sexual orientation. "It's because we have no money and the judgment was fraudulent from the beginning."

When asked how it felt to be brought down by a lesbian, Bonnie Mabon bristled at the notion. "Are you asking us to go bankrupt?" she responded.

"Our fate is not in their hands," she said. "Our fate is in the Lord's hands." ■



Bonnie Mabon seeks justice at the Multnomah County Courthouse

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