



Not Narrow

They might be straight, but these allies
always have been on our side



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Lon Mabon

Free at last

Judge dismisses contempt
order against Lon Mabon

BY JIM RADOSTA

As expected, Lon Mabon won't have to return to jail after finally agreeing to participate in a deposition April 5. The Oregon Citizens Alliance chairman was jailed Feb. 20 for contempt of court after failing to appear at several hearings seeking a 10-year-old settlement he has yet to pay off.

Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Ronald Cinniger ruled April 8 that Mabon complied by answering the questions posed by attorneys for Catherine Stauffer, a lesbian photojournalist who was assaulted in 1991. The next court date in the lengthy case is April 22.

Mabon scored a small victory April 5 when the Oregon Court of Appeals granted a stay of the contempt order while it considers his challenge of Cinniger's ruling. Stauffer's attorney Brent Foster said the issue is moot, however, because the anti-gay leader complied with the deposition.

After the hearing ended, *Just Out* had a rare opportunity to ask a few questions of Mabon, who normally does not grant interviews to this publication. First off: Why did he wait until he had exhausted all other legal options before arguing that Oregon judges have taken the wrong oath?

"We didn't know it," Mabon said as his wife, Bonnie, stood by him. "We became aware of the fact that the oath was not proper last summer, and as soon as we became aware we put it in our pleadings to Judge Cinniger, because we went down and checked his oath."

"He then said, basically, 'My oath is good enough' and then some months later actually took a different oath even though he had said it was good enough before. We maintain that because he did correct the oath—because

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