

# FREE AT LAST

Continued from Page 1



PHOTO BY MARY DAVIS

Attorney Frank Patrick talks to the media during a rally March 29 outside the Justice Center

[Chief Justice Wallace P. Carson Jr.] put out the word that everybody should take the right oath—then that in itself was an admission that he had had an improper oath when he said that he had a proper one.

"Then in further study we found out that the corrected oath wasn't even the proper

oath, and so we challenged that again. That's what brought us to the impasse of me going to the deposition—that the order that he signed wasn't a valid order because he didn't have the proper oath—and that's what I challenged."

When asked whether he thinks all decisions made by "impostor" judges should be tossed out—or just this decision—Mabon was evasive.

"I think that that's an issue that has to be decided by the courts themselves on the scope of the reality of it," he said. "I can only deal with the judges that are in my case, and we've researched those. The last we checked, every judge in the Circuit Court of Multnomah County does not have the proper oath. I think they need to have the proper oath. Regardless of the merits of the underlying case we're involved in, I think every judge needs to have the proper oath, and I think most citizens would agree."

Insiders say Mabon is using his incarceration as an excuse to energize the anti-gay movement throughout the state. However, he claimed the idea never crossed his mind.

"I haven't given it any thought," he said. "I had hoped my incarceration would bring the focus of the citizenry on the oath and the fact that the judges need to be following the constitution, as we're supposed to be following the law. I don't really see a connection politically between challenging that aspect of it and fighting the homosexual political agenda."

*Just Out* then pointed out to Mabon the presence of the man who arguably is the state's second most powerful anti-gay leader: Lou Beres, Oregon Christian Coalition executive director and co-petitioner of the Student Protection

# GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

**OCA tosses two measures while shifting anti-gay campaign into high gear** by Jim Radosta

An unforeseen benefit of Catherine Stauffer's lawsuit came to light upon Lon Mabon's release from jail earlier this month. The Oregon Citizens Alliance chairman admitted his incarceration has set back the anti-gay organization's latest initiative efforts.

"It has thrown a major monkey wrench into our collecting signatures," Mabon told the *Oregonian*. "We're way, way behind. It's going to take a herculean effort to make it."

Mabon said he is abandoning the Divine Life Sovereignty Amendment, which would have banned abortion and physician-aided dying, and

is "leaning against" an initiative to change the oath of office taken by judges. However, he still plans to pursue the Student Protection Act II, which would prohibit public school instruction that approves, promotes or endorses homosexual or bisexual behaviors.

In fact, Mabon revealed he and the Oregon Christian Coalition are enlisting the help of churches statewide. "That's about the only way an organization like ours is going to get on the ballot," he said.

Signatures are due July 5. If they are verified, that would leave only four months for gay rights activists to put together an opposition campaign before Election Day on Nov. 5. ☐

Act II, a measure that might appear on the fall ballot. He continued to deny any connection between the Stauffer case and his relentless opposition to equal rights.

"But he's a friend," Mabon said of Beres. "He's not here because of the political battle that we're doing with the homosexual agenda."

Mabon also was asked about the Committee for Constitutional Courts, a Clackamas-based organization run by Jeremy Bowen, president of the youth group OCA Underground, who recently wrote a fund-raising letter that says, in part: "Every day our friend is behind bars is

another day of torment for his family and victory for forces of evil. Your contribution will only go to Lon's defense."

Mabon responded: "To be honest with you I haven't even read the letter yet. I've been kind of indisposed for the last 42 days, and so I've still got some things to catch up on. But I'll look at it. I didn't write the letter, obviously."

The couple's attorney, Frank Patrick, called the press conference off as soon as *Just Out* brought up the committee's anti-gay rhetoric. "You're well beyond the issue at this point," he fumed as he stormed out of the courthouse. ☐

*spring*  
**PLANT SALE**

Sunday, April 21 '02

Cedar Hills Recreation Center  
South of Hwy. 26 (exit 68)  
at Cedar Hills Blvd. & Park Way  
10 AM-3 PM (members only: 10-11)

**The BERRY BOTANIC GARDEN**

636-4112

**Without a travel agent  
you're on your own.®**

*Five Reasons Why*

- Convenient one-stop shopping
- Unbiased information
  - Expert guidance
- Personalized service
- Consumer advocacy

**LLOYD TRAVEL**  
1026 NE Multnomah  
503-288-5145

*Westside Florist*

We deliver worldwide  
Same day local delivery

(503) 642-9992  
1-800-356-1884

Aloha Market Centre  
20455 SW TV Highway  
www.westsideflorist.com

Don Duncan  
owner

Teleflora

**Free Seminar for the GLBT Community**  
*"The 2001 Tax Law: a Personal, Business and Estate Planning Preview of the Benefits"*

Here's What You'll Find Out:

- An overview of the 2001 Tax Law—with emphasis on the unique benefits and challenges facing the GLBT Community
- How to avoid the legal prejudices many individuals in the GLBT community face
- How to protect your partner's right to visit you in the hospital and ensure that family members permit visitation
- How to ensure your estate records will remain private and confidential, protecting both you and your partner

**KENNEDY SCHOOL**  
Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
6:30—8:30 p.m.  
Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>  
6:30—8:30 p.m.  
5736 NE 33<sup>rd</sup>  
*Dinner will be served and there's plenty of free parking*

• Reservations are required •

**Seating Is Limited. Call 503-241-1215**  
Or Register Online At [www.rbsllc.com](http://www.rbsllc.com)

Floreid Walker, Senior Financial Advisor  
Waddell & Reed  
500 NE Multnomah #278  
Portland, Oregon 97232  
503.238.6036 Ext. 109

Co-Sponsored By: Richard B. Schneider, Attorney At Law  
Law Offices Of Richard B. Schneider, LLC  
2455 NW Marshall St., Suite 11  
Portland, Oregon 97210  
503.241.1215