

NORTHWEST news

SALEM CITY COUNCIL HEARS TESTIMONY

Almost 40 people testified April 22 before the Salem City Council regarding revisions to the civil rights code.

The proposal would ban discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodations based on sexual orientation, gender identity or source of income and would let people sue for damages. It also would expand "marital status" to include registered domestic partnerships.

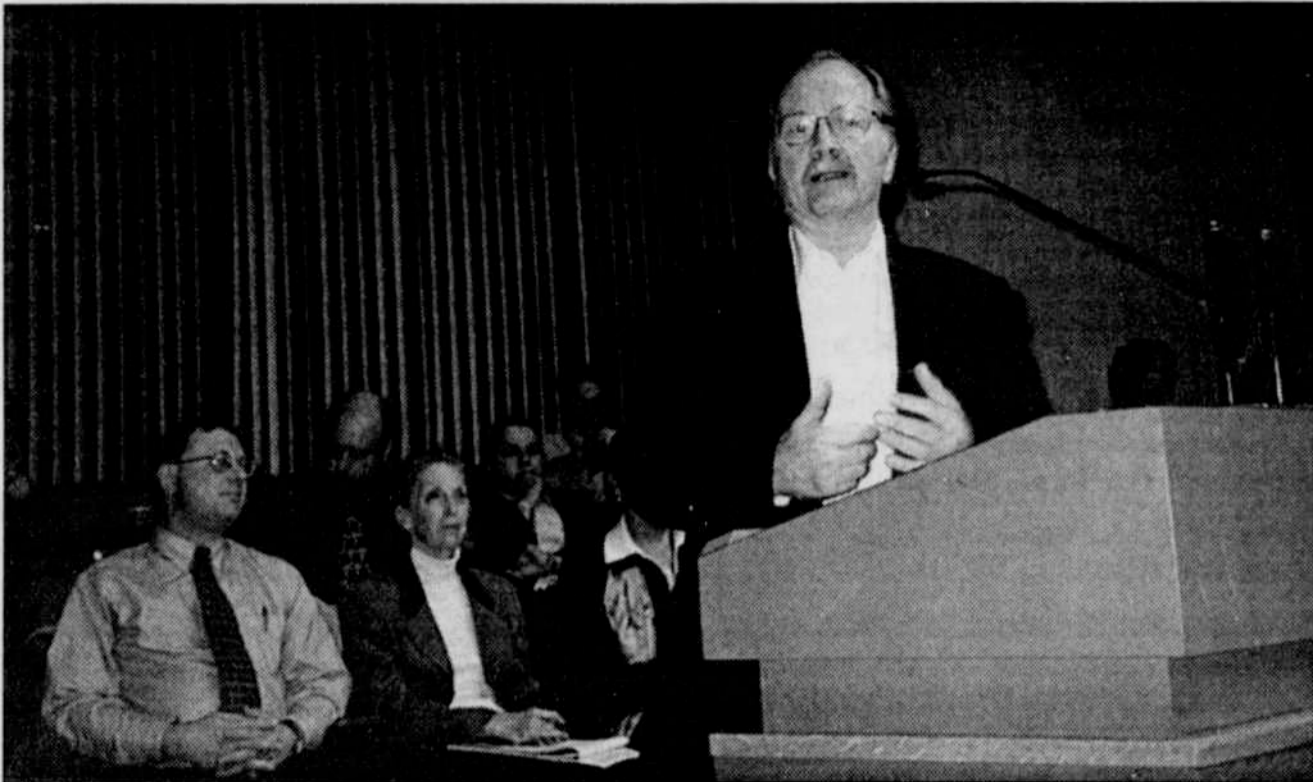
A total of 31 supporters shared stories of discrimination and harassment, and the council seemed to be listening: According to Cary Renfro of the Salem Human Rights and Relations Advisory Commission, the proposal easily will pass May 13. Only six people testified against the changes.

One of the anti-gay voices was a familiar one: Lon Mabon, fresh out of jail on a contempt of court conviction. He responded to the testimony of a woman who wondered whether the Oregon Citizens Alliance ever will go away.

"Having been involved in this issue for about 15 years...having won the issue one time by 53 percent and losing it three times by 44, 48 and 49 percent, I would think that most people would realize that we're pretty close," Mabon said. "Having won Marion County several times—actually, we even won the city of Salem a couple times in there—we continue to fight this issue."

Regardless, Mabon continued, he would have no choice but to take a stand for his values. He said the debate is not about whether people should respect each other but whether the city should sanction "wrongful" behavior.

"We're fighting the government saying that it's OK and sending that message," Mabon said. "If



Cary Renfro (left) listens to Lon Mabon's testimony April 22 at Salem City Hall

we continue to lose—and we may, but we're pretty close—we still feel we have to do what's right."

Mabon accused the council of having its mind made up ahead of time and threatened to pursue yet another ballot initiative. "We'll look at what we need to do and probably refer it to the people, and we'll see what they have to say."

City Councilor Bill Smaldone asked Mabon whether he believes in the establishment of a theocracy. Not in this life, he replied.

"I believe Jesus is king of kings and lord of lords," Mabon said. "I believe he is going to come back and hold this City Council and all of us accountable."

Mayor Mike Swaim also invited Mabon to

appear on his cable access show taped at City Hall. The OCA chairman said he would consider coming as long as "I'm not in court or in jail."

VANDAL TAGS SALEM CAR

A gay man and lesbian couple in Salem were the victims of a vandal who apparently has a problem with ditches.

Mark Schwier woke up April 24 to find the word "dike" painted on his new Jeep Liberty. His housemates, Kathryn McIntyre and Elizabeth Gingerich, believe they were the intended targets of the vandalism.

The couple were shocked to discover a neighbor might have a problem with their sexu-

al orientation. "We had no indication whatsoever that there was someone that disliked us or even knew that we were gay," McIntyre says.

Schwier immediately reported the vandalism but had to explain to officers that bias was most likely a factor. "The police didn't even connect the dots that it was a hate crime," McIntyre told *Just Out*.

She initially reacted to the vandalism with fear. But after talking to the media and receiving nothing but support from acquaintances, McIntyre realized her story could have a happy ending by raising awareness about homophobia.

"We just wanted some good to come out of it," she says. "We just didn't want to roll over and be a victim."

SUICIDE VICTIMS REMEMBERED

Affirmation: Gay & Lesbian Mormons will hold a special candlelight vigil May 10 to remember those who have lost their lives to suicide as a result of anti-gay pressures. The demonstration, co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, will start at 5:30 p.m. on Kruse Oaks Boulevard just outside the Lake Oswego temple entrance.

According to Affirmation, Mormon leaders publicly have committed themselves to a highly visible and well-funded campaign against civil and religious equality. Organizers say the vigil's location was chosen not to attack the church but rather to offer a message of hope and solace in response to the damaging power of anti-gay teachings.

Continued on Page 8

justOUT called him a "Straight Ally"

(April 2, 1999)

Barbara Roberts, Sen. Kate Brown, George Eighmey, the Portland Firefighters Association and the Multnomah County Deputy Sheriffs Association call him "best qualified." Now we can call him something else: **JUDGE**

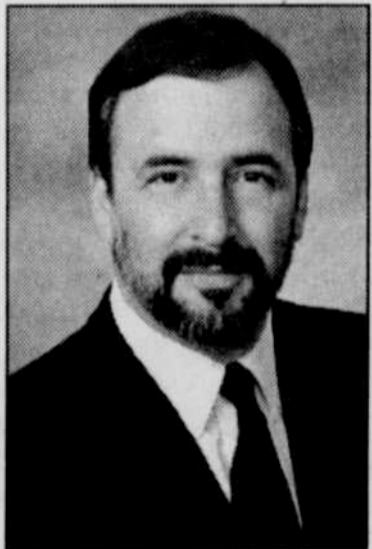
Please support

MARC ABRAMS

for Multnomah County Circuit Court Position 38 in the May Primary

Ballots are mailed May 3. Mail in your vote by May 21.

Paid for by Abrams for Judge Committee, PO Box 10781, Portland, OR 97210, Dick Levy, Treasurer.



WE LOVE OUR VET!

Companion Pet Clinics Portland \ Salem \ Vancouver

M-SAT
8am • 6pm
WEST LINN Sun 11am-4pm

WEST LINN 19343 Willamette Drive • (503) 635-3115
CLACKAMAS 16317 SE 82nd Drive • (503) 657-9225
TIGARD 13500 SW Pacific Hwy • (503) 670-9707

Bella CASA REALTY, INC.

Buying or selling your home is an important choice. Let Celia & Terri guide you through the process!

CELIA LYON TERRI POPEJOY
(503) 260-6231 (503) 330-0400

NEW—AWESOME BUNGALOW
Colonial Heights. 2bd, bonus rm, 2ba, incredible master suite, skylights, heavenly bathrm, lg soaking tub, tile, has it all. Lushly landscaped yard, deck, front porch, garage, hardwds, & much more. French drs in kitchen open to gorgeous yard. \$245,000! Don't delay! Location is prime! Available to see after May 13. Very special home.

NEW—VINTAGE 50'S RANCH
Hdws throughout, retro dble oven stove, firepl, huge kitchen w/ nook. 3bd/1.5ba, new tub surround. Over 11,000 sq ft lot. Green house (heated!), patio, basement, incredible landscaping. Mint condition. New asphalt drive. RB parking. New vinyl floor in kitchen & laundry rm. \$186,000 @ 3310 SW Huber near 35th. Parklike setting, sits off street.

IDYLIC COUNTRY LIVING
Acreage, daylight ranch, 4 bd/3ba, updated, bay window seat, deck, Fr. drs, hot tub, new septic line, lush landscaping. Almost 3 acres. Heaven on earth to a gardener. Dbl car garage. Wet bar in party rm. N Holly Ln, Oregon City, off Beaver Crk Rd. 2 greenhouses may be available.

GARDENER'S PARADISE
Fixer, 1bd, 1ba bungalow. Could be darling w/ very little effort. Forced air gas heat unit on wall, lg & lush green lot. \$77,500. Can't beat the price!

See our CLASSIFIED AD this issue for some more great listings.

Bella Casa Realty Inc.
1523 SE Ankeny, Portland, OR 97214 • 503-231-SELL (7355)