

**OCA LOSES AGAIN**

After almost two years of legal actions, a Multnomah County court March 28 found Lon Mabon, the Oregon Citizens Alliance and several other entities he controls personally liable for the fraudulent transfer of more than \$30,000 in funds.

In 1992, lesbian photojournalist Catherine Stauffer won a judgment against the OCA after she was assaulted during a Ballot Measure 9 event at Portland Foursquare Church. Since then, Mabon has gone to extensive lengths to avoid paying this debt by shifting assets to entities he thought were beyond her reach. At one point, the OCA was found guilty of contempt of court after it returned donations in an effort to keep funds from Stauffer.

In 2001, she sued Mabon individually, as well as the OCA and related entities he controls, for fraudulently transferring money. Despite claims that Oregon courts lacked jurisdiction over the OCA, Judge Ronald Cinniger ruled in her favor.

"These folks have created this sort of constellation of organizations that they move money around and around in, in order to avoid paying their legal obligations," attorney Mark Johnson told *Just Out*. "The purpose of this lawsuit was to get the court to say, 'These are all really Lon and Bonnie Mabon putting on different hats and claiming to be different people.'"



Mark Johnson

Attorneys are in the process of finding and taking the Mabons' assets, which include the OCA headquarters in Brooks. But the couple seem to be up to their old tricks again: They recently transferred ownership of the property to "a fellow out in Bend who is apparently an insider...but we don't know in what capacity," according to Johnson.

"The Mabons seem to be holding out hope that God is going to save them," Stauffer says. "I just think they should get a lawyer."

**SAVING SMYRC**

The Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center has several difficult months ahead of it because of state budget cuts. But newly hired development director Ashleigh Flynn is submitting grant requests and considering several options to help preserve the facility, which provides queer kids with a safe space to hang out and be themselves.



Ashleigh Flynn has three months to raise thousands of dollars for the Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center

"We are looking for others to share the benefits and also some of the costs associated with the space," she told *Just Out*. "The range of what could happen there is pretty wide open right now. We just need to begin holding the conversation on a wider scale and get a sense of who's interested in what."

SMYRC drop-in hours are 4 to 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 4 p.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays. The rest of the time the space goes unused, so Flynn would like to make it available to other groups.

The facility includes a kitchen, computer room, resource library, meeting area and stage. According to Flynn, it could be used for art, music and multimedia performances; alcohol, drug and mental health support group meetings; HIV counseling and testing; and community organizing.

"Every queer adult knows what it's like, obviously, to be a queer youth and how hard it can be," she says. "That's what this space is for—it's a safe space for queer youth and also for queer adults, if they so choose."

SMYRC administrative parent Cascadia Behavioral HealthCare, which laid off more than 100 people last October, already is renting out offices in the building to Project Quest, an alternative health center for people with HIV, AIDS and cancer. It's a "win-win situation" for both agencies, Flynn says.

She also wants to increase visibility and awareness within the sexual minorities commu-

nity about SMYRC. She especially is excited about its new mentor program with the Portland Area Business Association.

"Cascadia and all of the staff are very committed to preserving the services," Flynn says. "There are worst-case scenarios and best-case scenarios, and we're really looking at all of them. It's doubtful that the services are going to go away, because I think there's just too much internal community support at this point."

Interested organizations should call 503-238-0769, ext. 131, or e-mail [ashleigh@cascadiabhc.org](mailto:ashleigh@cascadiabhc.org). Donations can be sent to 2100 S.E. Belmont St., Portland, OR 97214.

**USING WORDS TO BUILD A PEACE MOVEMENT**

Love Makes a Family will hold a workshop to practice nonviolent communication and public speaking skills on the subject of war, peace, Iraq and the Middle East from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 12 at Ainsworth United Church of Christ, 2941 N.E. Ainsworth St.

Organizers also will set up the structure for a public outreach campaign. The workshop, which will be led by Cecil Prescod and Bonnie Tinker with input from other peace activists, will cover:

- **Speech as nonviolent action:** learning to use speech effectively to create political change.

- **The hardest questions:** identifying the most difficult questions posed by those who believe war is the answer.

- **Strategies for developing our message:** how to find common ground with people who oppose us, using our own experiences, connecting an emotional appeal with hard facts, identifying the most effective facts.

- **How to reach people:** finding speaking opportunities, using talk radio, writing for print media, television news opportunities.

- **Building a team:** speakers for different audiences, radio callers, writers for periodicals, resource material researchers and writers, schedulers.

This workshop originally was developed to help grassroots activists respond to anti-gay ballot measures in Oregon and elsewhere. It has been presented in 12 states during the past 10 years.

The event was made possible by McKenzie River Gathering Foundation Peace Action Fund. Donations will be accepted.

To register contact Cecil Prescod at [cecilprescod@hotmail.com](mailto:cecilprescod@hotmail.com) or Bonnie Tinker at 503-228-3892 or [bonnie@LMFamily.org](mailto:bonnie@LMFamily.org).

**PLAY IT SAFES**

Survivors Advocating for an Effective System—a queer-run nonprofit organization committed to building a compassionate, effective, restorative criminal justice system—will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 10 at Horn of Africa Restaurant, 3939 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

SAFES is inviting crime survivors who would like to connect with others in similar situations and who are fed up with ineffective "tough on crime" rhetoric to come and enjoy good food and casual conversation. Attendees will discuss how they can help champion a criminal justice system that reflects their values.

For more information contact David M. Baker at 503-274-2139 or [lotusvotary@hotmail.com](mailto:lotusvotary@hotmail.com).

**SIGNS OF LIFE**

Portland Community College has decided not to ax its American Sign Language Interpreter Training Program, which had been on the chopping block because of a funding shortfall.

Trevor Blake, a bisexual hearing first-year student, credits the deaf community, both on and off campus, for successfully convincing the board of directors not to drop the 20-year-old program. The only two-year interpreter training program between Seattle and Southern California, it has

Continued on Page 10

**DOMESTIC A&G IMPORT**  
Automotive

Mention this ad and get a 10% discount.  
**"SAME DAY SERVICE ON MOST REPAIRS"**

Repairs of All Makes & Models  
American • European • Imports  
Cars • Trucks • RVs

We Fix It Right the First Time  
From Oil Changes to Overhaul,  
Fred's Auto Works Does It All  
Close to Downtown • Free Local Rides  
All Makes & Models

"Fred's Auto Works...  
Why Doesn't Yours?"

Services Include:  
• Maintenance • DEQ  
• Tune-ups • Poor Engine Performance  
• Brakes • Clutch  
• All Electrical Problems  
• Carburetors & Fuel Injection  
• Pre Purchase Inspection  
• Alternators & Starters (Repaired, Rebuilt or Exchanged)

**503 238-1159**  
926 SE Morrison, Portland • <http://aandgautomotive.uswestdex.com>

**Bella CASA REALTY, INC.**

Spring is simply the best time to put your home on the market. Call the best realtors for the job. Celia & Terri for Power Team! Buyer—let's get out there & find you a home...Call us now!

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

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