



A Year in Portland

Revisiting *Just Out's* 2007 headlines

by Julie Sabatier and Jaymee R. Cuti

The Oregon Legislature passed a comprehensive civil rights package May 2, and Gov. Ted Kulongoski signed the landmark laws May 9.

House Bill 2007 grants same-sex couples the rights and responsibilities of marriage under state law in the form of domestic partnerships, while Senate Bill 2 makes it a crime to discriminate against anyone based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The laws take effect Jan. 1, 2008.

On the heels of the celebration came a campaign by a loosely affiliated ad hoc group of anti-gay Oregonians to refer the laws to the November 2008 ballot. It was a tense few months, but the secretary of state's office announced Oct. 12 the group had fallen short of the amount of valid signatures it needed to qualify its referendum.

David Crowe, executive director for Restore America, and Marilyn Shannon, who became the spokeswoman for the chief petitioners in the referendum campaign, said they will pursue a repeal of the new laws. This would require 82,769 signatures (27,590 more than they needed for the referendum) by July 3, 2008.

The Alliance Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against the secretary of state's office related to this issue (see Page 15).

Charles "Dan" Callaway's life came to an abrupt end Nov. 16 when he was

shot dead in the North Portland home he shared with his partner of eight years, Jonny Shultz. Detective Mark Slater said he suspects Callaway, 32, was attacked after interrupting a burglary.

"We believe it was a random act," Slater said at a press conference Dec. 13.

Shultz and Callaway's father, Phil, called the conference to draw attention to a new development in the case: the blurry image of a man captured by a surveillance camera in the Interstate Fred Meyer, near Callaway's home. The suspect reportedly was seen turning in loose change from a jar believed to have been taken from the victim's home.

"Dan loved Portland. I'm asking Portland to return that love by helping us find his killer," said Phil Callaway.

Shultz, clearly still reeling from the tragedy, said he moved out of the home they shared. "I've lost my partner," he told the room of reporters. "I've lost my home. I've lost my perceived future. We were planning on having kids and getting [a domestic partnership] in January when it's legal."

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest in this case. Call 503-823-HELP.

Just Out reported Nov. 2 that Brother to Brother, the nonprofit organization serving African-American men who have sex with men, is being threatened with a lawsuit.

The organization's former HIV specialist Loomis Hendrix, known as Kourtnei Dupree, hired a lawyer to pursue a claim that his boss sexually harassed him and that the organization's board failed to address his repeated complaints.



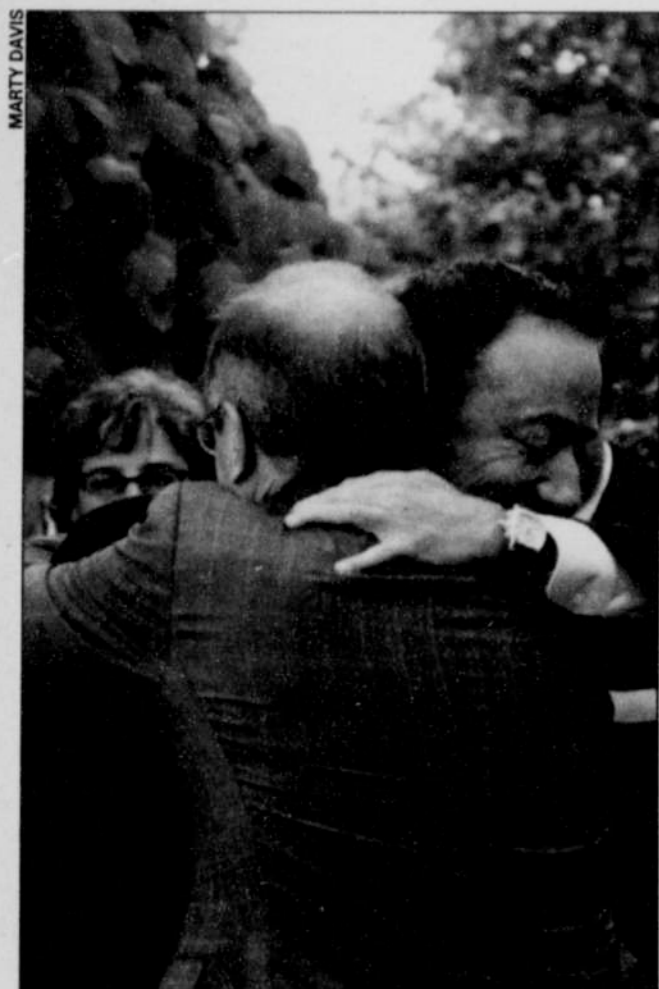
Darryl Moch, former executive director of Brother to Brother, denied accusations that he sexually harassed a former employee.

Darryl Moch, the group's accused former executive director, resigned July 19. He was replaced by board treasurer Alisa Simmons.

Hendrix's attorney, Natalie McDougal, confirmed Dec. 12 that a lawsuit has not yet been filed.

Basic Rights Oregon's lawsuits saw progress in 2007.

A parental rights case, Parman v. State of Oregon, was resolved July 13 with a judgment for partners and parents Jeana Frazzini and K.D. Parman. The couple said they were discriminated against when Frazzini's name was crossed off her son's birth certificate. A Multnomah County Circuit Court judge ruled that Oregon laws granting parental rights to married couples unconstitutionally discriminate against families headed by same-sex couples. The judgment was filed this month, and the state has until Jan. 3 to file an appeal.



Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski signed landmark gay rights legislation May 9.



Portland police suspect this individual was involved in the murder of Dan Callaway.

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