

northwest

Former Aspiring Politician Turns Anti-Gay Activist

Once she was a frontrunner Republican candidate for the Oregon House of Representatives. Now she's a self-described "wall design diva."

But one thing hasn't changed for Suzanne Gallagher—she's still a staunch equality opponent holding forth from her little corner of Tigard.

As the names of churches, businesses and individuals associated with Concerned Oregonians' efforts to repeal the Oregon Equality Act and the Oregon Family Fairness Act have begun to emerge, a number of interesting names—former political candidates, Republican party leaders, prominent business owners, artists, philanthropists and at least one Catholic priest—have surfaced.

When reached by *Just Out* this month, the onetime aspiring state rep turned designer sounded rattled by the phone call. When informed that her name had been disclosed as a member of Concerned Oregonians' petition distributors list, Gallagher responded initially that she was not involved in the effort "at this time." But

when pressed, she added, "There's nothing to talk about until we have petitions."

It seems that after her public defeat in 2004 by Democrat Larry Galizio—who is running for reelection against Tigard Republican Tony Marino, a voice-over artist—Gallagher retreated to her family's 4,500-square-foot estate on Bull Mountain, then re-emerged in recent years as an interior design consultant specializing in "art and fabulous art framing design."

In a 2007 interview in *The Tigard Times* highlighting her new career, Gallagher posed this question of herself: "Why do we display art at all?" she asked. "It feeds the soul... It can remind us of the places we've been, the great times we've had."

Gallagher refused to further discuss her involvement with Concerned Oregonians, but had this to say: "I'm in the public eye because I've published a book. It's called *The*



Ooh-la-loser: Gay-hating Gallagher gets fabulous with Concerned Oregonians.

Fine Art of Wall Design," which her Web site describes as a guidebook for "how to create PIZZAZ [sic] and 'Ooh la la' in your interior spaces!"

Gallagher added: "You can interview me about my book and my fabulous designs. You can read all of the articles on my Web site. Check out my Web site and call me back. Buh-bye."

Opportunity in Crisis for SMYRC

A \$2 million budgetary shortfall that left state and county officials scrambling in recent weeks to bail out Oregon's largest mental health care provider might leave a queer youth organization with a new opportunity.

Cascadia Behavioral Development fell into crisis mode last month when its bank, Capital Pacific, froze its account because of a defaulted \$2 million debt.

The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, not its own 501(c)3, resides under Cascadia's nonprofit status. SMYRC controls its own budget and is responsible for its own fund raising, but contract money from Multnomah County is funneled through Cascadia. Cascadia also provides SMYRC's administrative support and human resources. Five SMYRC staff members are actually employees of Cascadia.

For now, SMYRC program director Jonathan Weedman says, "The finger is off the trigger."

Multnomah County and the state of Oregon entered into an intergovernmental agreement May 6 to stabilize services to Cascadia's clients.

The state and county will loan Cascadia \$2.5 million to operate through June while transition plans are finalized.

This leaves SMYRC with the decision to continue operating under Cascadia, find another parent nonprofit agency—Janis Youth Program, Outside In and Q Center have offered to help—or become its own entity.

"We have some time to figure out what the best thing is," said Weedman, who raised the issue at a SMYRC youth steering committee meeting earlier this month. "I can engage the youth and community in that conversation."

Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey, a loyal SMYRC supporter, continues to be involved with its possible transition. "SMYRC is going to be fine, I promise you that," she said.

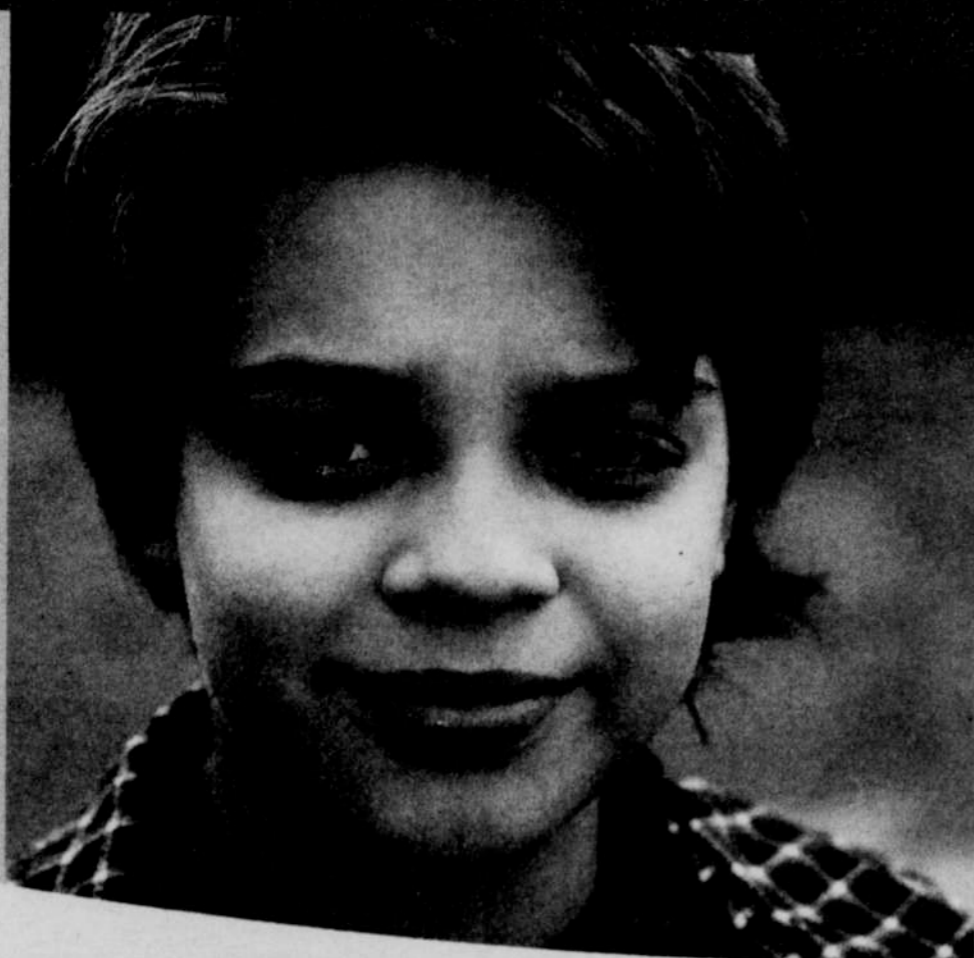
Pride Unites Partners at Mixer

With Pride season upon us, and the many preparations that accompany it, it's possible for the community to feel as though it's operating in a vacuum.

Pride Northwest recognized this frenzied state leading up to the big event and is holding a mixer to meet and greet board members and partners from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. May 31 at Q Center, 69 S. E. Taylor St. The event will unite leaders and supporters of Pride Northwest partners within Black

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