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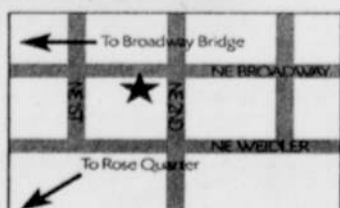
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Eugene Royalty Dethroned

If you ever see Joseph Sterling Ortis walking down the street, don't call him Princess XXXIV Galaxy Storm.

At the request of Eugene's Imperial Sovereign Court of the Emerald Empire, he was stripped of his court title, all past titles and his position as treasurer of the board.

"Please do not recognize Galaxy Storm in court walks or as a member of the ISCEE permanently," read the statement released July 17 by the court's board of directors and privy council.

Board president Brenda Stedman, also known as Emperor XXXIII Loadin Legacy, filed charges July 31 against Ortis, and he was arrested for theft Aug. 4. He stands accused of embezzling \$2,804.32 from the court in his

position as treasurer. As a result, the court also owes \$499.50 in bank fees and overdraft charges. According to Stedman, the total \$3,303 missing from the court's bank account was earmarked for charity.

Ortis, 24, was expected to appear Aug. 14 in Lane County Circuit Court.

To help recoup the loss, sister courts up and down the Interstate 5 corridor—in Seattle, Bellingham, Everett and Vancouver, Wash.; Portland; and Salem—held fund-raising events Aug. 10 to benefit the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Emerald Empire. Those events, combined with community donations, raised approximately \$2,700 in one week.

The court is holding its own fund-raising event, which was planned before the theft was discovered. The brainchild of Loadin and Crystal Legacy, the "No Show Show" is an opportunity to give without buying a new outfit and spending money on a hotel stay. A series of events will be held through Aug. 31 for a \$5 cover. For more information visit www.iscee.org.



Joseph Sterling Ortis, pictured here as Princess XXXIV Galaxy Storm, was removed from Eugene's Imperial Sovereign Court of the Emerald Empire for alleged theft.

CAP Names New Executive Director

Cascade AIDS Project announced Aug. 12 that Michael Kaplan, a Washington, D.C.-based AIDS organizational leader, is the Portland agency's new executive director.

Kaplan's appointment ends a three-month nationwide search to replace Jean Ann Van Krevelen, who resigned abruptly April 18 after just

more than two years in the position.

Board president Trever Cartwright said that CAP's eight-member executive director search committee had fielded dozens of applications and that the \$4.2 million annual budget organization was "pleased" with Kaplan's appointment, calling him an "experienced and visionary leader" in a written statement. According to a CAP press release, "Kaplan brings more than 16 years experience in nonprofit management and 13 years implementing international and U.S.-based HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support programs to his new role as executive director."

Kaplan's most recent role was as vice president for International AIDS Programs and deputy director for the Center on AIDS & Community Health at the Academy for Educational Development, a post that involved global coordination of HIV/AIDS care and prevention programs.

Also of interest regarding Kaplan's appointment are these side notes: He has been HIV-positive for 16 years, and his partner—also moving with him to Portland—is none other than former *Real World San Francisco* television series participant Sean Sasser. Sasser, a recognized AIDS activist in the 1990s, was an influential figure on the *Real World* series because of his relationship at the time with *Real World* star Pedro Zamora. In an especially emotional episode of the 1992 series, Sasser and Zamora were married in front of a small group of family and friends. Zamora died of complications from AIDS in 1994.



Michael Kaplan relocates from Washington, D.C., to lead Cascade AIDS Project, beginning Sept. 28.