

# LETTERS

## Enlightenment

I would like to respond to some of the recent unenlightened letters regarding National Coming Out Day.

To begin with, the reason for celebrating is not to make anyone feel sorry for lesbians and gay men. It is to show everyone, queer or otherwise, that we are people who are proud of who we are and that life really is better outside of the closet.

The letters written by Ron Williams and Brendan Briggs (ODE, Oct. 23 and 24) actually spoke quite eloquently in favor of coming out day because if either of them had had a good friend, or a sister, or a father come out to them, then they would have a personality and a face to which they could attach the word gay or lesbian.

We would no longer be anonymous homosexuals or fags or dykes and they would realize that there is no reason to fear, dislike or avoid people who don't happen to be heterosexual.

Just to remove any doubt, Briggs, if you were to have an "anti-coming out day" you would indeed be an insensitive homophobe. I would also like to thank Briggs for deciding that (were he able) he would not drive "homosexuals" from the community; that's very big of him.

Finally, as a queer, normal person, I would like to address Williams' fear that a gay man might "try something" on him: If you really don't find yourself

interested, Ron, just say no; it's as simple as that. Women had to learn that one long ago, and this is a great chance to see things from the other side of the fence; with luck, it might build some character.

**Michael Peeler**  
English/Philosophy

## Support for 6

The League of Woman Voters of Oregon support Ballot Measure 6 because it is responsible environmental policy. In a simple and straightforward way, Measure 6 promotes increased recycling by requiring industry to use more recycled materials in packaging.

Like other effective environmental laws already in place, Measure 6 sets clear standards for manufacturers to meet over a reasonable time line. The recycling goals are attainable and will result in serious reduction of waste going to our landfills.

Oregonians know that recycling needs a boost. Measure 6 is the best way to make that happen.

**Colleen Bennett, President**  
League of Women Voters  
of Oregon

## Waste ethic

The Oregon recycling act, Ballot Measure 6, is a conservative initiative that will put an end to a wasteful, throwaway ethic. Measure 6 is a workable

solution to curbing the most rapidly growing part of our waste stream, packaging materials like glass, paper, plastic and metal, by requiring them to be reusable, recyclable or made of recycled materials.

Oregonians know that reducing and recycling solid waste protects valuable wildlife habitat, conserves our natural resources and saves energy. Increased recycling will improve the quality of our lives and the lives of future generations.

The Audubon Society of Portland, the Oregon Audubon Council, and virtually every major environmental group in Oregon urges Oregon voters to pass Ballot Measure 6. The first state to pass the Bottle Bill, in 1971, Oregon has led the nation in innovative, workable solutions to solid waste problems.

Ballot Measure 6 puts Oregon in the forefront once again.

**Marc Liverman, Ph. D.**  
Conservation Director  
Audubon Society of Portland

## Elect Nathan

Your endorsement of Peter DeFazio (ODE, Nov. 1) overlooks a very important aspect of his performance. DeFazio misrepresents himself to his constituents.

First, DeFazio brags of voting for a Balanced Budget Amendment. The truth is DeFazio has voted against a Balanced Budget Amendment. As the *Wall Street Journal* reported (July

20), DeFazio was "trying to have it both ways." Two balanced budget amendments were proposed in Congress. DeFazio voted for the amendment that would have encouraged tax hikes rather than spending cuts.

DeFazio is no friend of fiscal responsibility.

Second, he has the lowest ranking (27 percent) of the Oregon delegation with the National Federation of Independent Businessmen — the nation's largest organization of small businesses. Most jobs are created in small businesses, yet DeFazio usually votes against legislation that small businesses support.

DeFazio is no friend of job seekers.

Third, he is rated in the upper third of big spenders in Congress according to the prestigious National Tax Payers Union. Such spending results in higher taxes and huge deficits.

DeFazio is no friend of the taxpayer.

How far can voters trust a Congressman who votes both ways on the Balanced Budget Amendment then hides one of the votes from us, who votes against job creation and who spends more of our money than two-thirds of his colleagues? This incumbent doesn't deserve another term.

Send a message by electing a Libertarian.

**Tonie Nathan**  
Libertarian candidate  
for Congress



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