

**LETTERS**

**Inhumane**

With interest, I have followed the protestations of the local chapters of Amnesty International and Clergy and Laity Concerned on behalf of the persecuted people of our planet. However, I have not heard, read or seen any members of the aforementioned local human rights organizations protesting the inhumanities that are consistently rained upon occupied Palestinians by the Israeli government.

For instance, 396 Palestinians, who were thrown out of their homes by the government of Israel onto a no-man's land on Dec. 17, 1992, are spending the summer there, after having spent the winter and spring in that barren land.

Do the local chapters of Amnesty International and Clergy and Laity Concerned care? Why are these local groups so woefully silent on crimes committed against Muslims in the Middle East? Could it be that these local chapters and their local sponsors are not interested in human rights and dignity for Muslims?

**M. Reza Behnam**  
Eugene

**Name games**

I am writing in response to a commentary written by Lia Saliccia (ODE, July 15) titled "Christianity fails to honor women."

It is unfortunate that she feels women are excluded from Christianity by the wording that is used in the more common English translations of the original Greek text of the Bible. In fact, the original Greek seldom

makes distinctions between males and females.

At the time when these translations were made into English, it was common, and also grammatically correct, for "he" or "him" to be used for pronouns in which no gender was specified. The English language, unfortunately, is short on non-gender specific pronouns, with the exception of the third person (them, those, etc.).

However, as the climate of our society changes, so are the translations of Scripture changing.

I suggest to Lia that she read through the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. I think that she will find that changing a few pronouns makes the Bible much more palatable and much more inclusive.

Christianity (the kind that Christ taught) was never intended to be a white males-only club. Two of Christ's closest friends (Mary and Martha) were women, and many of His teachings and experiences were with women.

Christianity was not intended to be for the few, but for all. Changing a few specific terms does not change the meaning of Christianity. Christ's teachings and his love are for women and men.

**Thomas Huckaba**  
Biology/Political Science

**OCA thin veil**

In a recent announcement by Lon Mabon, the Oregon Citizens Alliance served notice that his organization will start a campaign to recall 14 state representatives who voted for HB 3500.

I am deeply troubled by this latest action of the OCA and pledge my help and assistance

to my colleagues, regardless of party, in their efforts to resist any such recall effort. This matter transcends party loyalty and strikes at the heart of representative government.

Recall is appropriate for malfeasance and impropriety, for example, but not for voting one's conscience on a very difficult social issue. My colleagues have my full support on this matter.

Mabon's announcement clearly shows the citizens of Oregon that his crusade to promote discrimination against gays and lesbians is motivated entirely by greed and has nothing to do with family values or any other subterfuge he has claimed to further his particular version of bigotry. The Mabon family money machine is interested only in the fund-raising potential of the plethora of local initiatives his organization has planned for Oregon.

The OCA has consistently attempted to mislead Oregonians by claiming their campaign of hate is only to guarantee that gays and lesbians are not granted special rights. HB 3500 is, in fact, their final victory, as it specifically prohibits local governments from granting special rights to people based on sexual orientation.

But, faced with the loss of their divisive agenda for fund raising, their attention turns not to the celebration but to the vilification of my colleagues. The moral bankruptcy of their crusade has been stripped of all of its cover. Oregonians can now clearly see the OCA is merely a thin and tattered veil for Mabon's blatant money-grubbing.

**Rep. Dave McTeague**  
D-Milwaukie

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