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LETTERS

"Just Out impresses me"

Staff:

I've read issues 4 and 5, and the quality of thought and feeling in *Just Out* impresses me.

Please send me back issues as well as a subscription. I plan to keep a current issue in the waiting room at my office.

Nan Narver

Hunger's Insight elicits disappointment in Klamath Falls

Dear Editor:

I have known Jim Hunger since September, 1981, when he came to Klamath Falls to teach in the Klamath County school system. Jim came to the Klamath Gay Union — and

through his efforts, and others, the organization experienced another of its periodic revivals. The KGU was originally founded in 1973, and incorporated in 1978 (Jan. 25th) with the State of Oregon.

Klamath Falls was not Jim Hunger's 1st choice for a teaching/living situation — as I recall he chose Klamath Falls over Milton-Freewater. I was amazed that Jim has remained here this long — as he is often critical of the people, the "isolation" and the gay community he finds here. Jim has spent both summers and most holidays out of Klamath Falls.

As one of the founding members of the Klamath Gay Union, I don't think you can imagine the disappointment I felt at reading Jim's latest article in his column *Insight*, entitled "The Lives and Deaths of Rural Organizations." Since he's had almost no experience with other "rural" gay organizations in Oregon — SOLA-GALA or the new organization in Bend (HIGH DESERT ISLAND) his observations are totally of his experiences with the KGU. This should invalidate the numerous comparisons he makes, i.e., "While rustic regions... that makes most other rural areas seem progressive by com-

parison." Knocking Klamath County because school budgets have not passed easily (schools have not closed as they have in other areas of our state) is unfair. If education were supported as Jim would like in Oregon — he no doubt would be teaching in the Portland area — and his articles would be complaining about the backwardness of gay people there who don't fit his ideas of "progressive, sophisticated homosexuals." I suppose that your largely urban readership is pleased to read that sophistication and progress are located in cities — yet I've known city folks who are as bigoted as any I've met in Klamath County. Eugene did not pass the gay rights ordinance. Has Portland or Multnomah County even considered such a proposal? The only incorporated entity in Oregon to grant gay rights is Rajneeshpuram — in rural Eastern Oregon.

Every author/writer/reporter brings his/her self to their work. Certainly, "The Lives and Deaths of Rural Organizations" says as much about the author as about the subject he discusses. In articles I've written I've attempted to point out the opportunities here — my goal is to explain Klamath County as a place where gay men and lesbians can live

and work and prosper. For all the reasons — it is not possible — or even desirable for all homosexuals to live in urban areas... to suggest otherwise, I think, lacks insight and is as self-limiting to our community as anything our enemies attempt to impose on us.

Jim Hunger has pointed out limitations of gay folks who are from rural areas and remain there. He fails, in my opinion, to see the strength that comes from choosing to remain in the community of your birth — where you must deal with family, lifelong friends, etc. I realize that the struggle in the cities has not come without pain and price. That is also true of gays who struggle in the "hinterlands." These adventures will be Jim's if and when he makes a commitment to settle in one place. In unity,

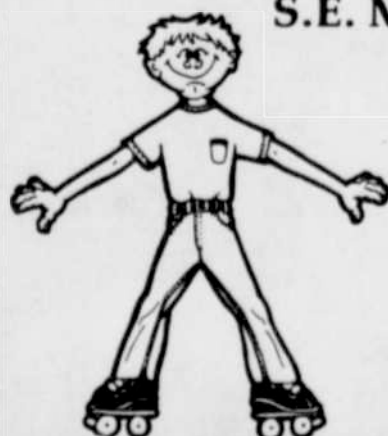
Richard L. Pastega

Correction:

In our last issue, the telephone number for *The Curse of the Starving Class* at Critical Mass Theatre was incorrect. *Just Out* regrets the error and any inconvenience it may have caused. The correct number for reservations is 224-9481.

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