

LETTERS

Prefers the Club

Dear Editor,

So, you prefer the Primary Domain! It follows then, that you love the lighting effects at the airport terminal's ticket counter, the decor of your high school's cafeteria, the drink prices at the Oil Baron's Ball, and a staff and management trained in Gestapo tactics.

Personally, I prefer Club 927. That's because I love soft lights, pleasant surroundings, reasonable drinks, and a warm, considerate staff and management.

I guess it's true, there's just no accounting for taste, is there?

Of course, I don't always have impeccable taste myself. I have to confess I did read your paper — once!

Diana Marcott —
a grateful patron of
Club 927

Give me a break!

Dear Editor:

In response to editorial on Primary Domain:

Give me a break, please! Granted, Portland lesbians were in grave need of a new place to dance, etc. 927 and The Other Side of Midnight are very dungeon-like and feel very male-identified. I sympathize with your feelings of hoping they either go out of business or stop calling themselves women's bars.

But really, don't you think that you went just a little too far?

A little paint does not make class. I think that Kate could use some artistic advice. The Christmas decor was tacky. If that is any kind of representation of the so-called 'class' she has brought to Portland, I say keep it to yourself.

Furthermore, many women gave their time and energy to that place for little or no pay and it is not a non-profit venture. Let's get things in perspective. Kate Sullivan started a business that many women have seen the need for, but couldn't get the finances together to do it. Given the need, she is almost certain to make considerable profits off all of us. I have nothing against that. However, I do not feel that I owe her a "big thank you," and I can think of more appropriate places for my praise. She should give a "big thank you" to Renee for the free advertising, though. Maybe with the extra money she could support some lesbian artists and get something on those walls. A decent D.J. would help, too.

Realistically,
D.K.

Sing It Sister

Dear Renee:

In regard to your recent editorial about women's bars in Portland. I have one main comment: SING IT SISTER. The Club 927 does one thing for me only — it churns my stomach. Is it true that they now have female strippers there? I pray the women's communities around the States never find out about it — how sad and degrading. And here I moved to Portland hoping it would become

the Women's capitol of the world . . .

I have not been to the latest opening establishment, but have visited the Primary Domain. I basically agree with you as to the comfortableness of the place; I would, however, like to see some very good artist (I just happen to know one) get her hands on the walls at the Domain. I also would love to be able to go somewhere like that and not be forced to leave because of cigarette smoke. Such is the life of an active non-smoker.

Please keep up the great work with **Just Out**, I do look forward to reading it. You and Jay have a wonderful thing going. I'm even impressed with the typeset you choose.

In sisterhood and support,

L.M. Luther

Dear Editor:

RE: Renee's rendition of what the Primary Domain means to Womin [sic].

As a color-observant person, I couldn't help but notice that the walls of the Primary Domain, heretofore referred to as PD, are not white, even though it is true that the rest is gray. I applaud the color decisions made. The PD is a welcome relief from other lesbian bars in that sense. I am really looking forward to seeing some lesbian art on the walls soon.

I wish that the drinks were more within my price range.

Mostly, I wish that someone would sink the D.J. through a basketball hoop. There, perhaps, she would reach new heights in the wonderful world of basketball disco for retired sports enthusiasts. I mostly go to the PD because I like to dance my socks off. Unfortunately, the music doesn't facilitate my feet or motivate my body's rhythm to activate. The scratched records make me cringe. The incongruous and haphazard mixing sends me up the wall of inertia. As I sit waiting for a "good song to dance to" I wonder repeatedly how I can get a 'dancing fix.' I sure can't get it at the PD! I am not going to boycott the PD until the DJ miraculously recovers from whatever dread disease caused her to lose all sense of taste in music, but I probably will not be going there for awhile.

I will most likely be at home . . . getting down to my favorite tunes on that great dance floor that I fondly call my kitchen.

a disappointed dancer,
I remain,
Dianna C. Long

Community doesn't need bars

Dear Editor,

I'm writing this letter in response to your most recent editorial on The Primary Domain.

As a member of the women's community and a Woman of Color I do not owe Kate Sullivan a "thanks" for opening another bar. Bars are not the answer to what our community needs.

No matter how much one tries to mask the environment, this observer still felt very dark among the white walls and pretentious atmosphere of the Domain.

One would have to look very hard to find that "extremely diverse group of women" Renee wrote of. There is not even a pretense

of diversity among the paid staff, it's basically generic. But then, is that not true for most gay bars in our community?

Before we "line the pockets" of a bar owner with our hard earned money, be it Dyke or gay man, stop and think. Could that money aid another Lesbian group? One that is working to help others? There are a lot of other Dyke organizations that truly serve a diverse group of women. Organizations that are non-profit and are working towards a better future for us all. How about a little financial support for them. Try skipping the bar just one week-end of the year and donate the tab to one of the Lesbian organizations; if we all do that, we can go a long way towards helping ourselves. Besides, it's tax deductible, and a whole lot better for our health.

Thank You,
McGee, Portland

Not a non-profit organization

In response to your January '85 editorial:

I for one *DO NOT* believe "the women's community owes Kate Sullivan a great big thank you . . ." I think that Kate is more than adequately thanked every time a member of this community passes some of her hard earned money over the bar. Kate is definitely *not* running a non-profit organization. This community is supporting her — not the other way around.

While I'm on the subject of the Primary Domain: Linda Shirley did a great job as DJ, but who is this that's in the booth these days? I was in the P.D. New Year's Eve for about an hour and a half. During that time this alleged DJ managed to cause the stylus to go bouncing across the record no less than six times. She also repeated records during that time. I realize that it's impossible to go all night without replaying some tunes, but to hear them twice in 90 minutes is very boring.

Sincerely,
Susan Gregg

Everyone makes errors in judgement

Dear Editor:

Myself and the staff at the Primary Domain wish to thank Just Out and the community at large for their overwhelming support for our new social club. It's truly a wonderful compensation for our efforts to be lauded by our community press. As with most people, positive feed-back makes our everyday work more inspired and congenial and gives us the patience and perspective to deal with any negative sentiments. From my short time in dealing with the public domain, I have learned that there will invariably be those who are dissatisfied with services rendered. This goes with the territory and is as much a statistical probability as rain. *Everyone* makes errors in judgement; when you are a public industry there are apt to be echoes that the individual is not subject to. That is why we at the PD were concerned to read that our plaudits

were somewhat based on a denigration of Club 927. It is not our desire at the Domain to achieve a monopoly in the gay women's community. Regardless of complaints in any direction, we are all still more free when we have choices. In many ways our present successes are based on the trials and errors of past efforts. The Portland Women's Community has grown tremendously; despite the general economic exodus, and will continue to grow as women from all across the country seek the liberal atmosphere of the west coast cities. There is much room for expansion in services to our community. I hope we can support one another in this effort.

Many thanks to **Just Out**
for their support!!
Kate Sullivan,
Owner of The Primary Domain

GRNL Outreach

To the Editor:

A short while ago I assumed the position of executive Director for the Gay Rights National Lobby. Although there is much that needs to be done, I am confident that I can succeed not only in making GRNL an effective voice for lesbian and gay rights on Capitol Hill, but in helping our community to gain the rights and respect we deserve.

In a time when so many voices, like the moral majority, are calling for anti-gay legislation, it is especially important for our voice to be both strong and loud. It is my goal to work with national and local gay and lesbian organizations, as well as non-gay organizations that support us, to create that voice. It is absolutely imperative that all members of the gay and lesbian community, our family and friends join with us in working for what is rightfully ours.

When we think of lobbying, most of us think only of a person on Capitol Hill rushing in and out of House and Senate offices and wining and dining important officials. That is only part of the task. The other equally, if not more important part is the role that the individual voters play.

Congresspeople do not respond to lobbyists unless they know that we represent voters in their districts. We have two ways of letting them know this: (1) we point to the number of members we have in a given district and (2) we activate our constituency network to make calls to their representatives to encourage them to support our positions.

I strongly encourage all gay men and lesbians to become part of our national network, part of our voice, by becoming members of the Gay Rights National Lobby. No matter where you live, you can volunteer your time to help. Or, if you prefer, you can send us a contribution. For more information, please write to P.O. Box 1892, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 546-1801.

Remember, it is only by working together that we will ever reach our goals. Your contributions of time and money are vital to us all. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Nancy Roth, Executive Director
Gay Rights National Lobby