

# LETTERS

## Gay radio, Yes! Queersville, No!

To the Editor, et al.:

Oh, great! So we get a radio show on KBOO. So it will be called *Queersville*. How sickening. The name alone is enough to disgrace our community, yet gay men and women are putting their time, talent and enthusiasm into this project.

Why do I protest?, you may ask. The answer is quite simple. Queer is a word which has been used by the homophobic masses in an attempt to degrade gay people and lower our self-esteem. I personally have heard the word used negatively for the past 25 years. Whether it has been directed at me when I was minding my own business, or in the coffee room as people snicker about the AIDS crisis, I have not heard the word used *en masse* in a positive or constructed manner.

I know, I have been told "It's just not meant the same when it's used among US." Here is where I tend to hold a different opinion. Granted, there may be an implied difference in meaning, yet this difference is not conveyed to 'outsiders' when they over-hear gay people using terms they know we consider derogatory. Calling each other "faggot," "queer," "girl," or any other of the various 'endearing' terms may be acceptable within a bar, but in general usage should be avoided. Untuned ears do not hear the implied endearment, just the ugly, abusive words.

So, we go on the air with the word "queer" in the title. Those untuned ears will only hear "queer," with only a limited sector of the listening public picking up the camp humor and possible endearment. Yes, I am outraged.

We do not live in a humorous world where spoofs on serious matters are easily understood. We are living in a world populated with religious fanatics, right-to-lifers, and arm-chair moralists — all opposed to the very existence of gay men and women. Why else have the right to lifers begun protesting outside bath houses in New York? Who do you think their next target will be after the abortion issues has been dealt with? If you don't think WE are the next target I suggest you reconsider. Gay people *are* on the moralists' agenda.

I am mad because the gay community refuses to grow up. My spouse and I refuse to be active in a community which cannot and will not see the writing on the wall. We have fought hard to get where we are. And where we are is out in the open. We do not deny who or what we are. We refuse to be the silent sufferers. When a derogatory remark is made about gay people in our presence, it is immediately refuted — be it in public or in the work-place. We refuse to allow any discriminatory practices to go unchallenged. Our standards are high — not out of arrogance or feelings of superiority, but out of pride for ourselves, for what we are. Unfortunately, most gay people don't agree with our tactics, for they are risky. Nor do most gay people want to share our views that unless we become responsible for our community, there may be a bleak future for gay men and women.

I do not wish to see the dimmest visions for our future come true. We have been persecuted for too long. This desire, however, can only be realized if all gay people see the need for responsible action. Airing a program called *Queersville* is not responsible. The name implies that we do not take ourselves seri-

ously. How is it possible for us to call 'foul' when we send signals that abusive, derogatory, homophobic phrases are accepted, tolerated, and yes, even encouraged within the gay community? Radio programming for the gay community — YES. *Queersville* — NO. Surely there must be a more responsible and positive name to be found; a name which emphasizes the pride and dignity of gay men and women in our city.

Sincerely,  
John Leonard

## An open letter to Gov. Vic Atiyeh

Dear Gov. Atiyeh:

The Mid-Oregon AIDS/Health/Educational Support Services, Inc. (MASS, Inc.) has discussed among members of its Board of Directors the above referenced budget proposal and officially recommends that it be rejected for the following considerations:

Except for approximately \$55,000 earmarked for public service and educational contracts, the bulk of this nearly \$375,000 package appears to be related to the employment of three individuals and the implementation of a program of testing persons for AIDS virus antibodies, with concomitant "counseling."

The major flaw in the proposed program is its refusal to guarantee anonymity to all persons tested. In spite of the fact that states having comparatively large numbers of AIDS cases (such as California) incorporate anonymity as an essential part of their programs, Ms. Gebbie feels that "Providing anonymity for AIDS related services would give substance to the claim that government agencies are giving special privileges to gay men and drug users." Such a statement hints that she may be more concerned over political proprieties than public health.

AIDS is currently not a disease free of social stigma. Bisexual males and heterosexual relatives often have even stronger concerns about anonymity than do gay males and drug users. In addition, the practical fear of loss of employment, insurance or insurability, and community rejection will cause many persons to avoid being tested, in spite of laws guaranteeing total confidentiality. The fear of economically devastating plagues and witch-hunting for scapegoats often overrides rational considerations of promised assurances. Refusal to incorporate total anonymity in a public AIDS virus testing program legislates against anyone having fears, for what-

ever reason, whether or not those fears are justified. MASS, Inc. feels that any program making use of public tax dollars should be available without obstacle to *all* the people, and perhaps especially to those whose fears are the greatest.

From an economic viewpoint, a restructured approach with respect to employment of personnel (\$118,000 of the budget) might well be considered. Community service volunteer agencies already have the trust of the persons they serve. Contracts between them and the Health Dept. could make use of existing networks and assure wider coverage to target populations, as well as provide programs to protect anonymity for persons living in small towns.

In short, MASS Inc. agrees with the spirit of providing funding for needed services, but feels that such service as Ms. Gebbie proposes would be wasteful and ineffective.

Sincerely,  
Carl H. Berggren, M.A.  
President, MASS Inc.

## Elves Against AIDS

To the Editor:

The Elves Against AIDS would like to thank all the folks who donated to the Cascade AIDS Network on Saturday night, December 21. With their help the elves raised \$306.91; this money will be split amongst CAP, CHES and the Chester Brinker Fund.

We would also like to thank the bars and restaurants that participated with us this year. We appreciate your extra-special holiday spirit!

Have a happy, healthy '86,  
Howard Bierbaum for  
The Elves Against AIDS

## Windfire depends on you

To the Just Out Staff,

Thank you so much for all you have done for Windfire. These kids don't get a lot of support from the gay community. Few, if any, get support from family. Most of these young people get support either from Windfire or from friends they have met at Windfire. Because of the fact we have no funds or income, Windfire depends on people, and organizations like yourself to keep on going.

These young men and women will be replacing us in this community in years to come. It's important that they get positive input when they are young.

Thanks again,  
Mark Pan

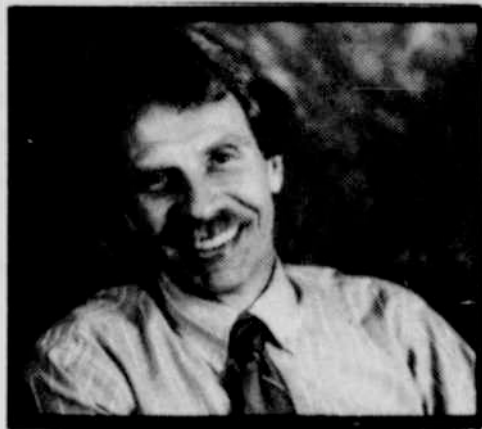
## MEXICO

### "THE TRAVEL BARGAIN FOR '86"

All packages include round trip air and 7 nights hotel

PUERTO VALLARTA - RAMADA .....	\$457	ppdo
MAZATLAN - LOS PALMAS .....	\$402	ppdo
IXTAPA - CASTEL PALMAR .....	\$551	ppdo
ACAPULCO - CASABLANCA .....	\$553	ppdo
CANCUN - CLUB CARIBE .....	\$619	ppdo

(Other hotels and combination cities available)  
Restrictions apply



Wayne Boulette  
Account Representative



VISTA TRAVEL SERVICE

224-5000

In Oregon 1-800-245-5557

200 SW Market Portland, Oregon

New Hillsboro Location - 5289 NE Elam Young Pkwy D-700

## ANIMAL MEDICAL CLINIC

"A Pet Care Center With Hours For Working Pet Owners."

DOGS - CATS - EXOTICS

DR. RANDY TESAR D.V.M.

**222-1254**

1411 SW 14th PORTLAND

7:30 AM-10 PM Mon-Fri

8:30-5:30 Sat. and Sun

• Weekend Hour  
• We Make House Calls

• Close-In Downtown  
• Ample Covered Parking

## In Memorium

Francis R. Scobee

Michael J. Smith

Sharon Christa McAuliffe

Judith A. Resnik

Ronald E. McNair

Ellison S. Onizuka

Gregory B. Jarvis