

LETTERS

Outlook employee dismayed

Dear Editor,

I am an employee at the Gresham Outlook and just ran across your article "Not again!" that states the Outlook Publishing Company will no longer print your publication due to "religious beliefs." I was appalled that the Outlook took this stand. I went to the publisher and talked to him about this issue and left his office still in dismay. I went home and wrote him a letter and gave it to him in the morning.

I should also say that I am not gay, but I do feel very strongly that this was not a fair move on the Outlook's part. The *Just Out* people have been very good to work with and I feel what you are trying to do in your publication is done very professionally. I wish you a lot of luck wherever you go.

I know of one other person that is also going to write a letter to our publisher and others that have just given us support. We would just like you to know that this move by the Outlook is not the view of everybody there.

Sincerely,
Larry Taraba
Cameraman, Gresham Outlook

Support Neil for Governor

To the Editor:

I am writing to urge my fellow members of the gay and lesbian community to support Neil Goldschmidt for Governor of Oregon.

Neil has a long and consistent record of supporting gay and lesbian rights. After being elected Mayor of Portland in 1972, he voted to include "sexual orientation" in the City Council resolution on non-discrimination in hiring City employees. In 1976 he proclaimed Gay Pride Day as part of the gay and lesbian community's annual celebration. Both these actions were unprecedented in Portland, and for both he was harshly attacked by the same local right wing who have slandered us.

He left Portland in 1978 to become Secretary of Transportation in Jimmy Carter's Cabinet. Returning to Portland to campaign for Carter's re-election, he made a point of meeting with a gay audience — only the second Cabinet member in history to do that. All through his career he has remained sympathetic to the movement for gay and lesbian

civil rights.

To be fair, we should recognize that Norma Paulus, his Republican opponent, also has a positive record of supporting gay rights. But in this election we don't simply vote for an individual — we vote for a party. The Democratic Party of Oregon has included gay and lesbian rights in the state party platform for over a decade. Our last Democratic governor, Bob Straub, in 1978 appointed the Governor's Task Force on Sexual Preference, chaired by Holly Hart; and this commission did valuable work in its hearings and its research to demonstrate the case for effective gay and lesbian rights legislation in this state. As for the Republican Party, how many Republican legislators on any level have come out in support of our legal or social needs? Do any of us need to be reminded of the "moral leadership" of Ronald Reagan and the national Republican Party on issues dealing with women, social services, assistance for AIDS, as well as gay civil rights?

We are always tempted to think of politics as either boring or dirty, somebody else's business. But the decision of the Supreme Court to uphold an anti-gay sodomy law, and the Justice Department's policy effectively to allow discrimination against AIDS patients, show us that we can no longer afford that luxury. For once, the cry to "throw the rascals out" has direct meaning to our community — and the front line in this battle is now more than ever at the ballot box. If you can, give your time and money to candidates who support our rights. But at least be sure to VOTE!

Sincerely yours,
Edward Segel
Portland, Oregon

Endorsements prompt disagreement

To the Editor:

Vol. 3 No. 12 issue of *Just Out* is an especially good issue. The articles by Cathy Siemens and W.C. McRae are excellent.

I do disagree with a number of the political recommendations by the *Just Out* staff concerning the ballot measures we will be voting on in the November 4, 1986 general election:

Ballot measure #11, the homestead exemption is a measure which would give substantial property tax relief to homeowners

while not exempting the holder of large commercial properties.

Ballot measure #12 would increase the income tax for those making over \$40,000.

The tax reform package of #11 and #12 are superior to the other taxing proposals on the ballot . . . i.e. #7 a sales tax which is anti-business and #9 which would cripple local governments.

I am also opposed to ballot measure #13 which would further restrict voter participation. Oregon has had no voter fraud. Norma Paulus and the Republican party had been active in restricting access to the polls by Oregonians. They succeeded in getting a one-day cut-off — and require that citizens come to the offices of the county clerks if they register within 20 days of an election. This will work a hardship on citizens who do not get interested in elections until the final week of the election . . . get voters interested in the election just before voting date. Norma Paulus takes credit for fighting the Rajneesh; now the Rajneesh are gone and the honest citizens of Oregon are left with the restrictions on voting rights.

I am pleased with your endorsement of Neil Goldschmidt for Governor. Norma Paulus is a cheat. She kept the marijuana initiative off of the Oregon ballot on two occasions.

Thanks for printing your recommendations. For the most part they present a progressive political point of view that is needed in Oregon.

I sent a contribution to the "No on #64" campaign in California. I appreciate your including it in *Just Out*.

Richard L. Pastega
Klamath Falls

OOB spat continues

To the Editor:

The P.S.U. Women's Union would like to respond to the opinions expressed in *Rag Times* and *Just Out*, regarding the forum on lesbian erotica/pornography, and its relationship to feminism, which it was sponsoring.

As a group of diverse women our membership held a wide range of feelings pertaining to this issue, the element common to all of us was our desire for more information. It was for that reason and that reason *only*, that we proposed to sponsor some kind of public discussion on the topic of lesbian erotica/

pornography and its relationship to feminism. In response to input from the community we changed the original format from a debate to a panel discussion, and also the title from, "What is the Place of Violent Pornography in a Feminist Bookstore?" to "A Discussion on Erotica/Pornography by and for Women and its Relationship to Feminism." We want to stress that although individual members of the Women's Union had their own opinions on this topic, it was the collective consensus of the Women's Union to insure an unbiased forum. It was for this reason that when two panelists representative of the S/M Lesbian Community withdrew four days before the panel discussion was to take place, we were forced to cancel in the interest of fairness.

Members of the community who have criticized the P.S.U. Women's Union for their involvement in facilitating discussion on this topic did not bother to get their information from us. We are very concerned that both *Rag Times* and *Just Out* misled the public by presenting incorrect information regarding the Women's Union position on the forum.

Contrary to the opinions expressed, we are not a bunch of straight academics — well over half of us are lesbians. We were not supporting any one side of this issue; our intention was to sponsor an unbiased forum. We do not value the concept of politically correct feminism and/or sex — nor are we certain of what political correctness entails.

During the course of planning, promoting, and eventual cancellation of this forum, there was a lot of backstabbing directed towards the Women's Union. It is essential that the women's community not become factionalized in this manner. We are saddened and frustrated that some members of our community feel so threatened that they would in effect prevent this discussion from even happening.

Any women interested in continuing this discussion are encouraged to call the Women's Union at 229-4452, ext. 13.

Love,
The P.S.U. Women's Union

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